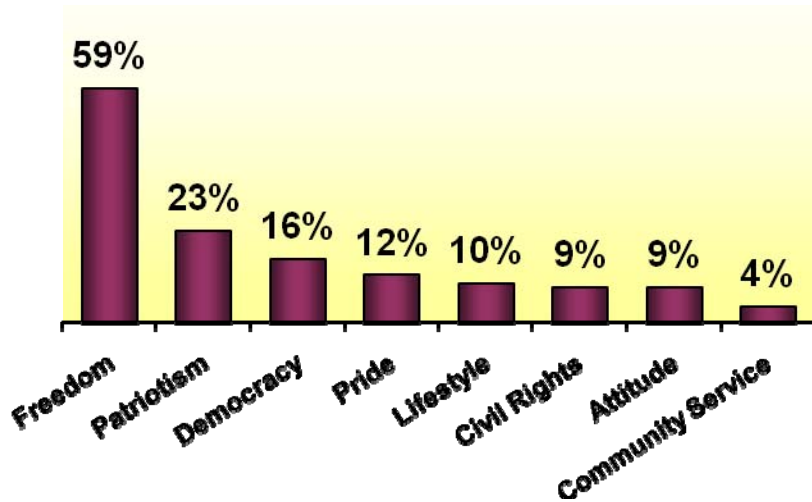


In Their Own Words

What does it mean to be an American?

As part of the Harris Poll, 2,421 U.S. citizens aged 18 and older were asked an open-ended question: What does it mean to be an American? In response, nearly 60% mentioned Freedom. Patriotism and Democracy were also common mentions.



Below are all 2,421 verbatim answers.

Verbatim

freedom

Freedom from government interference. Mutual support of other citizens.

Freedom of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Just as it says I truly believe it this statement, and no one can change it. I am SOOOOOOOO LUCKY

I love my country even when I do not agree with the politics. I believe that as Americans we should be cleaning up our own act and taking care of our own people before we meddle in the affairs of others.

freedom

You have the freedoms of free speech, freedom of religion, right to own a firearm for protection from government, and freedom granted to you to disagree with your government without punishment from your government. Even though you disagree, you are still governed by the laws of the government until those laws are changed.

Look at the constitution and all that it stands for - peace and justice.

I could write a book on this subject. It is very important to me.

To be born in the country or to become naturalized. Should have pride in your country too.

It means being socio-politically active, voting in every election, working hard to earn a living, embracing and acting on moral values.

The knowledge that all legal opportunities are before me and that I have the right to try and fail without hindrance.

To be Free to live the life that I want to

The freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the hope engendered by the Declaration of Independence and the laws outlined in the Constitution and the responsibilities as a citizen to give back and uphold those freedoms, hopes, and laws.

Freedom

I consider myself lucky to live in a country that offers so many opportunities to its citizens. And offers its citizens so much freedom.

Freedom, having good quality of life, enjoying all benefits the US offers

Freedom

Born of at least one American parent, on US soil or Embassy etc., valuing the history & heritage of living in a Christian nation, in a Constitutional Republic, and under the Rule of Law.

Being able to enjoy the freedoms of one of the greatest countries in the world.

The right to speak, practice my own religion and the right of others to do the same.

I am very blessed to have the freedoms that we have here.

Freedom of choice, freedom of speech. In general, freedom to be accepted as an individual with differences from other individuals.

To be free.

It means that I am free to pursue my education and my life work to the best of my ability. It means I can worship as I wish, can travel within my country freely, can associate with whom I wish, and can voice an opinion without fear of reprisal. In one word - freedom.

The land of the free and brave

Being American means I have plenty of options for what direction my life is headed, there are millions of people in the world who are unable to say that, for that I am saddened, but it makes me appreciate what I have even more.

To live and speak free.

Believing in your country and doing what you can to keep the country alive

I'm very proud.

It means frustration and some anger as I watch what our country could be slip away while big business is gradually allowed and even encouraged to take over the nation.

It means to the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It means that I am pretty much free to do what I please, as long as it is lawful, and I have rights.

to be free

Born and bred

Freedom to be myself.

FREEDOM

An obligation to contribute and an opportunity to achieve. A guarantee of equality under the law and of individual liberty so long as it does not harm others.

To experience the freedom as an individual and to pursue whatever you deem possible. Freedom is the key to American living and freedom comes at a cost.

Tolerant enough to allow non-mainstream views to be heard but strong enough not to allow non-mainstream to prevail.

That I have the rights and freedoms granted by God and I have not only the privilege, but the duty of taking an active interest in my country.

It means to insist on the most liberty of any Nation. It's means being united by aspirations, not divided by sect or creed.

To live the life our forefathers gave us with all the freedoms. Don't take away what I have been doing for years, if it is something you don't want to say, participate in, or actively join, don't, but don't take it away from me.

freedom

to be free to move anywhere in this country and have the same basic laws and privileges and opportunities as other citizens

It means that I'm lucky to be born in the best country in the world.

To be truly American, I think one must embrace the ideals of the country based on the US Constitution and US Law. If one disagrees, then one should work for change via the political process and other legal avenues. I think that 'American' implies common mores, culture and language, but not religion. Part of the strength of the US depends on its diversity, yet at the same time when certain groups of people become isolated either by choice or by disenfranchisement, the nation as a whole is weakened.

Freedom of thought, word, religion and opportunity in a democratic environment free of oppression and prejudice

Because of our ample resources and the sacrifices our ancestors made to attain freedom, we have a responsibility to those less fortunate but not to impose our beliefs or economic systems on others.

freedom

I am free to make choices regarding religion, speech, employment, love, etc. and responsible for the consequences of those actions.

America is the greatest country to ever exist on the earth. We are the last best hope of freedom for all mankind. It is our responsibility to ensure that our concept of individual freedom defeats the forces of collectivism both at home and throughout the world. We need to return to the values of the founding fathers, particularly that government is never the solution. It is the problem.

freedom

Believe and follow the constitution and bill of rights of the US.

To uphold the law and to be against anything that diminishes the rights of any person regardless of race, color, or creed.

It means that I live in a country that was established in a Judeo-Christian belief. I believe that as Americans we should maintain this belief in spite of what the trash that the ACLU tries to foist upon us

To be an American is great. I have had the opportunity to live a better life than in any other country. I can travel, buy good things, have good health care, get a good education and worship in a church of my choice.

Free

To share a goal with all other citizens to make the country as free and open as possible.

being a patriot

It means I don't have to write an essay on what it means to be an American. Who commissioned this 'survey?'

Don't know

Freedom of choice. Freedom from religious and political persecution. Freedom to become the best person possible.

Tolerance and freedom

I live in a country whose freedoms allow a wide diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and opinions to flourish and enrich one another. Yet I fear that some people want to restrict these freedoms, and some of those people may be foreigners but most of them are chauvinistic Americans.

This question is much too profound to be answered simply. I understand the great benefits that come to me from being a lifelong citizen of this country, and I take seriously the obligations pertaining to that citizenship.

To have freedom except freedom FROM religion. To have a higher class standard of living than other countries. To have a less corrupt (though corrupt nevertheless) government.

Freedom (If the government stays out of our lives)

America is the land of the Free but we have an idiot (President Bush) in the white house.

It is all very nicely summed up in the Bill of Rights.

It means the freedom to live and worship according to my own beliefs and have equality under the law.

Freedom!!!!

It used to mean freedoms spelled out in the Bill of Rights.... something the present administration has devalued

freedom of choice

An American is someone who lives in American and associates with the ideals the country was founded upon.

Having the right and power to voice my opinions on political issues.

I am a proud and free individual who is a loyal citizen of the USA

It means that I should be protected by the bill of rights and that I should be able to count on those rights-currently the Bush regime has made those rights less strong than what was previously the norm-despite that I live in a free thinking community where we have the ability to agree or disagree with the government and legal paths to act against issues with which we do not believe/agree

The ability to have my personal freedoms as declared in our constitution. Be rewarded for hard work productive thoughts. The ability to pursue an education. To basically do what I desire.

Freedom to choose and voice your own faith and beliefs and treat everyone as your equal

A free person with both the responsibility and opportunities to better myself and my family.

freedom for diversity, from religion, being able to speak against or for a politician

To live with freedom

It means that I am a part of a country that offers freedom and the right to the pursuit of happiness and justice.

To take an active role in the life of the country, supporting the freedoms of others while promoting your

personal views.

I am an immigrant myself since 1959 and feel totally American. However, embracing the culture has its caveats. Entertainment, sex and sports are presently dominating American culture, all of which I leave just alone

Freedom. opportunity

To be able to follow ones beliefs, whether religious or otherwise. The ability to move around and do what one feels is best for them.

It is a sense of pride and history. We have worked hard to become a great country and need to remember the ideas that created our country.

Freedom!

Americans believe in the Bill of Rights and lives them, along with their respective responsibilities, in their daily lives. Americans take a proactive role in being the same freedom to all who desire it throughout the world.

I don't have time to write an essay.

liberty and the pursuit of happiness within the limits of the constitution and laws

To be free.

To be an American, it means to believe in freedom and the government that allows us to have that freedom and be willing to protect that freedom at all costs.

All the freedoms mentioned in the constitution, and Apple Pie

Being American means accepting the responsibilities of living in the world's only major superpower and listening to, and assisting, other countries in the developing and developed worlds.

It means to be loyal, law abiding and at the same time enjoy freedoms granted us, to be fair and honest in all our dealings.

we have freedom that most countries don't have and we get make choices every day, and for that we are truly lucky and should be grateful

It used to mean a lot to me, but now the Country is going down the drain... We are still better off than a lot of other countries though. Being an American means keeping my god given rights. I have to right to worship, speak, write, think for myself, have a gun, and other freedoms. I am proud to be an American.

Means you are free but it also means you should stand up for your country or by it.

TO be a responsible citizen includes integrity, voting, taking an interest in politics and a DUTY to voice one's opinion if the country appears to be heading in a questionable direction

To be loyal to my country.

Support the constitution and all that it stands for.

To be proud of your country, to enjoy the freedoms that we have, to have free elections, to go to the church of my choice, and to take responsibility for myself.

I am a very lucky person I was born here.

To me being an American means being able to live free, having freedom to say what I want, being able to own a weapon. However, a lot of our freedoms are being usurped by being 'politically correct' because these other so called Americans have no backbone. Above I had said about being able say what we want, but we can't because someone may be offended by it or they may take it the wrong way,

or they may even jail or kill you because we said it. They want to take the 'right' away from us to own guns, they do that and only the crooks would have guns!! We can't own property without the fear that someone else wants it and due to 'eminent domain' can take it from you!! Our Senators and Representatives are so far out of touch with the people they represent that they are only worried about their own agendas, they are OVER PAID because they are always giving themselves raises. These 'career Politicians' should be ousted on their ears and get 'fresh blood' in there every year!! They have the privilege of serving for ONE term only. They should have to live on the Social Security System for retirement and not have these retirement plans that allow them to live the life they are used to while they are working but live like our retired people do from month to month and decide if it's going to be medications or food this month. Let the 'common man' run this country not those who have enough money to get elected. I know you asked me what does it mean to me to be an American. To be able to spout off like this and not have to worry about going to jail because I said it. As an American woman it means that I DO NOT have to bow down to any man and cover myself completely, I DO NOT

Every thing

An American is a conglomerate of all races and creeds of the world put into one melting pot. An American believes everyone should receive the rights listed in the Bill of Right. This means no one group is higher than any other, all are equal. To be American is to live in liberty.

to be proud of those who serve and protect our rights. The rights given to us by our founders of our country.

good

TO me, today being an American means nothing

I am a citizen of the republic of the United States of America.

to be strong

Freedoms (speech, religion etc.)

Freedom

That I'm one of the luckiest critters on the planet!

to live in a country that is free

freedom as long as it does not interfere with another's freedom and welfare

Freedom

freedom

Able to say Merry Christmas without being politically incorrect. And also being able to speak English in front of everyone not Spanish

PROTECTION, SECURITY, FREEDOM, HELP WHEN DISASTERS OCCUR

It means to be very FORTUNATE!

Being an American means I live in the best country in the entire world bar none.

To be given all the liberties that you want as long as you work hard to get them.

Loyalty to my country, my flag, and my president

Freedom. I am proud to be an American. I am free to follow my dreams and aspirations. I have freedom of speech, religion, etc. I need only follow the laws of the land which are made to keep utter chaos from reigning.

a united people

It means that no one will determine what religion I will adhere to or follow. It means that I will be free in my own person as long as I do not harm another person in the person. It means I can participate in the form and direction of my government. It also means that I have freedom of movement within the borders of my country.

a citizen in a capitalistic society

Freedom to practice any faith, to have free speech and live my life in relative peace.

To be a person that strives, even in everyday life, to uphold the constitution of the United States, participate in local and federal elections, and stay informed of the policies both foreign and domestic of the federal government.

It means that I hold the burden of guilt that comes with being American; guilt from owning clothes in which less than one percent of the profit made goes back to those in third world country that worked in substandard conditions to make them; guilt from living in a country with the resources to combat AIDS, but doesn't, to end world hunger, but doesn't, to stop global warming but doesn't.

I'm free, I can buy enough food to survive, I have a roof over my head, and I know nothing can bring this great country down. We are all one as Americans, and we have a duty to each other. We can work to make things better. Most of us have good hearts and sound minds. We have much to be thankful for.

freedom, tolerance, rule of law

To live in America, hold an American citizenship, and identify myself as an American citizen.

everything

To strive to make America the best it can be

everything

To live in the US and have the same common ideals as other Americans

it means I am part of the greatest nation in the world

Believe in the constitution and the freedom of its citizens.

everything

it means I can buy what I want if I can make any money and all the government does is lie to us anyways like Oswald did not shoot JFK, but that's what being an American means you have to listen and believe all the lies while we get taxed like crazy and the rich keep getting richer take their money

I used to know but George bush has changed all that

We have the freedom to be who we are. We speak English.

Most freedom to choose, best standard of living

I live in a democratic, sane, high spirited, atmosphere. We are a government by the people for the people. We the people have a right and a voice. We fought for our freedom.

Freedom to speak, and do as we please, as long as it is legal.

This is America and all citizens should follow American policy

To have freedom of speech and a country that was founded on Christianity and God. If you don't like our laws, LEAVE and stop trying to take our freedom from us

To be able to model for the world respect, honor, and dignity for all,

Fair Justice Freedom of the press and speech and to have a peaceful demonstration able to disagree with the government

freedom

Pride and freedom.

to be free to do what you like, but still follow the laws in place to make life better for everyone here

freedom

To live in a free society where the people have a voice. Where all men are created equal.

freedom to choose

It is a free place to live. You have right to speak. Laws that help you.

It means being humble about the blessings of God on this country and trying to help alleviate pain and suffering around the world.

Freedom from class distinction

free to make my own choices

I used to be proud to be an American, but that has dimmed substantially. I can only see myself (as an American) as others see us in general: bullying, self-righteous, greedy, money- and power-hungry, torturing swine. Lovely.

Freedom, and Rights

Being a part of something that is great!

Being an American means I have the freedom to do, say and believe whatever I want so long as it does no harm to others. It also means I have a responsibility to protect those rights, for myself, others and future generations.

To vote and actively voice my opinions. To be responsible for myself and other human beings.

Freedom and responsibility

Do your part to improve the environment & living conditions for one another & mostly respect Mother Earth.

to be very proud of our country no matter who dick head is leading our country

I live in the land of the free and am proud to be a patriot

Being an American means that I have a responsibility to be a 'good' person. Follow the laws, help my fellow man, and do my best to improve myself.

To fight for the rights of Americans. My family came here, learned English, and became Americans. If you don't like American the way it is, don't come, or leave as the case may be

Freedom of speech, right to assemble, right to vote.

believing in what the constitution embraces

It's my nationality.

The fact that I can freely go anywhere in this country, believe the way I want to and have free speech. So far, we haven't reached dictatorship yet.

Freedom

A family proudly working together for the betterment of all citizens.

Great way of life.

I'm sorry but I was not prepared to write an essay when I started this survey. That question requires a lot of thought. Let's just say that I am proud to be an American.

To be an American is to have freedom. We too often take for granted what we have that other countries don't.

I am proud to be an American and I take democracy seriously which is why I think as Americans we cannot force our ideals onto others. Being an American means that we represent a great country and with the resources we have available we should help others. But in the past few years I have been close to being ashamed to be an American because of the ways we have been portrayed around the world.

Living here is all I know. I feel that there are many things here that are better than living in another country, for so many governments are very corrupt. But of course there are also problems here as well. I support and love my country.

What is used to mean--zero government harassment!

Freedom of speech. Freedom of religion. Free to go anywhere I choose, and choice of political party

Having the freedom to speak my mind.

It's not what it used to be. Mexico isn't the only border we need to close, we need to take care of what we have here before allowing any outsiders to come in.

I proud of my freedom of speech, freedom to go anywhere I want and thankful the soldiers fight and have fought for our freedom.

In my opinion, being an American means appreciating the rights granted to you as an American citizen and doing whatever you can to make the country a better place to live in.

no response

proud and free strong

real freedom

declined to answer

Freedom of speech and movement.

To speak English and be free

I am a Jeffersonian Democrat in that I believe (among other things) in the separation of church and state and the right of free speech. These have been basic to our Constitution since the American Revolution and we do not need any more Presidents with 'faith based initiatives' or immigrants who feel the need to take over the world in the name of their Supreme Being.

don't know

To have the freedom to pursue that which I want and be able to see it come to pass without interference from government.

NA

Proud to adhere to American constitution and American standards

I love my country but hate my government

The Freedom that we have. The right to free speech, the right to believe and worship as we choose.

To be free and able to express one's view. To be an American is a privilege and an honor. The freedom we have should be appreciated and not taken for granted. We as Americans can lead not only the citizens of this country but can lead other countries to follow our traditions and values with honor and respect.

It means that as a citizen of the world's most powerful country, we have a duty to provide aid and assistance to citizens of other nations, without forcing our beliefs or policies on them.

Being able to be free to believe in what I want to believe in. Being an American is not being judged because of what I believe or how I live my life. Being an American means being free to be me.

To be free of an unjust form of government. Being proud of our country and what it stands for. That we are able to make choices, vote, and at least hope each individual has a say in what goes on in the U.S.A.

not sure

to follow the rules and laws of America and then have the freedoms and benefits offered

It means I give the Pledge of Allegiance as was written. In 'God We Trust' is on our money. I speak and read English. If you are dissatisfied with America....GET OUT...you're not needed here

To be a loyal citizen, pay your taxes, obey the laws, understand the constitution, vote, keep current on present legislation and contact your representatives and let them know your opinion on issues.

Understand and obey the constitution and the laws of the land.

It means the freedom support my beliefs without any repercussions.

being privileged to in a nation like the us

To be able to have the rights and freedoms stated in the Constitution.

freedom to choose

To be blessed with privileges and responsibilities of citizenship

Values

Land of the free. Home of the brave.

Being Free

I am honored to be living in freedom in this country.

Freedom to follow the American way of life. Be loyal to the country that protects me and support my country. Freedom to follow my own Religious beliefs as long as it does not go against my country in any way.

Residence in the United States.

FREEDOM!!!!!!

To accept the United States as your country. This is where you choose to live - then you must abide by its laws.

To live without fear of reprisal from government authority. To be able to offer an opinion even if it is against the grain. To be free to help, or not, those in a predicament.

One part of being an American is to act responsibly in both your personal and community life.

Legal, loyal citizen of the country who speaks English.

free and a good life

Live here and appreciate it for what it is.

That you speak English, obey the laws or face the punishments, pay taxes, are faithful to the American traditions, respect the American flag, respect America, and believe in God.

1.LOVE GOD 2.FREEDOM 3.BELIEVE IN THE CONSTITUTION 4.THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

It means not having a king, or any royalty. It means being able to think and say whatever I want, no matter what it is or how offensive others find it. It means living in a nation of immigrants, a land where everyone is given an opportunity.

We are looked at as a world leader and we need to set a excellent example

I believe it to be a government for the people--by the people. I don't believe any other countries off such freedoms as we enjoy. I'm proud to be an American and proud of our military.

Freedom to think and feel what I want, as long as it does not adversely affect others. To promote Freedom for others. To support Freedom of others!

It means I live in the most powerful country in the world and have the freedom to do what I want.

Everything

Very proud to be an American.

The profound opportunity to be a citizen of the greatest country on earth.

Freedom

to be one nation under God

To support my country by exercising my rights. The right to vote, the right to hold office and to speak up when I feel the government is not governing in the best interest of the people.

Being an American means that I can live my life without fear. Fear that the government will take away my rights or fear that extremists will threaten my neighborhood. As a woman I can do and think as I please and not be persecuted for being a woman. I am free!

freedom

We live in a country that allows everyone the freedom to be the best that they can be. We are a generous country they tries to help everyone in the world during time of need.

Knowing that this country was founded on Godly principals I believe that we are no longer Americans as you stated but we are a greedy, selfish country. I thought America was a place to live without fear and everyone gets along with each other. This country has lowered standards to suit themselves for a comfortable living. What happened to the respect of your fellow man?

Conflicted but Proud

Freedom of speech, press and religion.

Freedom from being told what to wear, when to travel or where to travel, where to shop, make money or be poor, freedom to vote for anyone, freedom to be able to be against politicians without harm to myself, freedom to educate my children in the way I see fit, freedom of religion, freedom to choose where I get medical treatment and not wait in those long lines like socialist places. Freedom, freedom,

freedom. - and also able to get help for a short time if needed from tax money I have already contributed or will contribute when I am working again. Also an important American tradition for me - embracing more than one culture as we allow many cultures to come together here - learning about others and their differences and enjoying them.

I am proud to be an American, since I enjoy freedoms that many peoples of this world only dream of having.

free

To have been born free and able to live a free life without hurting anyone.

Enjoying the freedom to agree to disagree about anything without any fear of reprisal, oppression or condemnation.

Free to believe and act under the laws of our land. Free to prosper and choose one's profession. Free to worship. Free to select our lawmakers without oppressive vengeful actions.

I have individual rights and responsibilities.

Right now I'm not certain as the focus of the US has changed with Bush as President.

Anyone who wishes to can express their opinion.

Freedom and justice for all.

Unfortunately it is meaning less and less as George Bush ruins things. It means to be a part of an incredible country that has gone downhill lately

Freedoms of religion, speech, press, etc. And that I have a duty to preserve and protect these freedoms for my decedents.

Although there are many flaws in our government at this time, I still am thankful that God allowed me to be born in what I consider the greatest country in the world!

Freedom to make my own choices. Value in diversity.

To always remember the founding fathers and how they sacrificed their very lives and careers to make sure there is an America that we can all grow up in and be proud of.

How can you put that into a few words? It means I can practice the legal 'freedoms'. It means standing up for what is right, what is fair. It means 'opportunity'. It means freedom from oppression. It means a lot more than I can put into words.

Loyalty to American understandings of right and wrong.

Freedom to come and go as I please, within the boundaries of law, and with the responsibility to obey the laws, or change the laws, and support the nation against all enemies.

To be free.

Freedom, not just for me but for everyone. The right to have preferences and judgments that I believe in. To support those that support our Country

To live where I please, to come and go at will, and worship as I please

Free Enterprise! Freedom of worship.

Being an American means showing respect for my country and its symbols, being faithful to the constitution, participating in local government, when possible, and making careful choices in voting. I love my country and am proud to be an American.

Being an American is enjoying and embracing the Freedoms and Rights this Country has to offer its citizens, but they do come with a price tag in this day and age. But Freedom should never be taken for granted, it must be earned by each generation before

Freedom, equality under the law and equality of opportunity.

Life. liberty, and equality for all regardless of their beliefs

Freedom, security. Self-pride.

freedom - at least it used to before we were inflicted with Bush

To be free & think as I do.

Accident of birth location....this country was founded as an experiment, and it can work very well as long as we FOLLOW the ideals: total separation of church and state, freedom of speech and religion for everyone, and provide education and medical care for citizens instead of running up a stupid military budget. And I think Bush should be impeached, prosecuted and jailed. He is the dumbest man on the planet and I can't believe he got nominated in the first place, let alone elected and re-elected. HE makes me ashamed to be American, that greedy lying stupid man who represents money. Don't get me started.

Be an outstanding member of your community. Pay more attention to the affairs of foreign nations. Uphold our government to the finest standards. Be the best worker, best philosopher and best contributor to the welfare of all humans regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity and religion.

Adopting an American set of values and participating in the decisions and processes that guide the government.

freedom

To be free and live in a land that God created to do what you want to do with your life as long as it's not illegal....Those are my main points...

freedom to be whatever I want to be

To represent the country in an honorable way and defend it to the death.

A difficult struggle to reconcile the current state of affairs with the original intent and premise of 'American' ideas of FREEDOM from such diabolical central banking schemes such as the Federal Reserve. A sense of hopelessness in the face of a pathetically brainwashed population gullible enough to accept computerized voting and a fictitious 'two party system' which only exists in their dumbed-down brainwashed minds.

I am extremely proud and happy.

It means freedom to live and worship as I choose within the boundaries established by the Constitution.

Living in the Americas.

I feel very lucky to have been born in this country. Being an American means supporting other people and working together to keep our freedoms. I feel if you come to this country, you should love it and try to become a part of it. That means learning at least some English and speaking it when dealing with other Americans.

Everything

based on current interpretation of the Constitution's first amendment, freedom to not participate in any religion

To be an American means that you have many freedoms that aren't always offered in other countries around the world. Along with these freedoms though, come responsibilities. These include responsibilities as a citizen to contribute to the greater good of our country, as well as living with integrity and morals. Although everyone in the US is considered 'American', there are many people who I feel do not contribute, therefore, not earning their right as Americans. Although there are several things I enjoy about living in the free democratic society of America, there are several ways in which I feel we as Americans got screwed.

A responsibility to maintain freedom.

That we can be ourselves without being dictated in having to pray to certain religions. People came/come here to be free, to get education, to get medical help, to fulfill their lives. If they want dictatorship then they should stay in the country they just left. I want to be free to be who I am and not what others want me to be.

It means that I have the right to express my opinions, even if they don't jive with anyone else's, or even if they don't jive with the federal government's ideas of what my opinions should be. It means I can be me no matter what, so long as I hurt no one.

What it mean I COULD NOT TELL YOU BUT I know one thing it feel's damn good.

Honest, helpful, support one another, and be kind to each other.

Personal freedom

To be accepting of all others, so long as they accept you in return. Diversity is welcome, but tradition is also important. Upholding our values while embracing others. To be an American is to be who you are, and accept others for who they are.

That one was born on the American continent--both north and south. A person from Brazil, for example, is also an American.

I strongly feel a sense of pride that is being taken down by the day! I speak English, and am proud of my country. I am happy to be free and have the rights I enjoy every day!

To be an American is a blessing and a curse. In America we are blessed in that we are one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Our children all have public schools and everyone gets a chance to make it in the world. But, by the flip side of the token I have found that a large amount of people my own age are content to live lives off of other people. Mooching off of family friends and even the government they claim to hate.

To have the freedoms afforded to me by the Constitution created by our Founding Fathers, who were of English descent and who spoke English. This country was built on the belief of God and with English as its official language and that shouldn't be changed just because we allow people looking for a better life to enter our country and receive the same rights (and more) as those of us born here.

To be proud and to be able to vote and live in America.

To be an American is to have the opportunities to reach your goals, and also to give back to and support the nation and its citizens.

Being an American is great. I believe that it is a wonderful privilege that I have inherited from my ancestors. It's the pride and freedom that we have that allows us to be called Americans.

To be proud of the freedoms our founding fathers granted us with the constitution. To serve our country as law abiding citizens.

To be a citizen of a country in which you participate and make up the rules and life style that you live. To be of any race, gender, or religion and still be treated the same as the person next to you. To voice your own opinion freely and make your own dreams come true.

To be born here, but still have ties to my heritage.

I have all of the freedoms that anyone could ever ask for.

been a free man

To have an understanding and appreciation of the principles on which our country was founded. It is every American's duty to protect and defend the intentions of the Founding fathers and respect the Constitution.

To simply try to be a good citizen and believe in the foundation of our system.

Being able to speak my mind freely Being able to vote Being able to organize ways to get real media to others Being able to have freedom

Proud & Free.

Freedom to express thoughts, opinions, beliefs, and live and work within reasonable limitations.

Being part of a free nation composed of numerous races and being able to speak freely about anything.

Living in a country where your beliefs are protected.

n/a

Freedom of choice, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and freedom of political choice.

Means being a member of the greatest country in the world

To have an importance on independence and a respect for other people's beliefs, even if you think they have un-American values, because by allowing them to hold those beliefs you are exemplifying being an American.

Being free

It means that one supports the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

I am proud to be an American and both my son and my husband served for their country My husband served 30 years and we were definitely all American.

Everything. I am an American first, last and always. I would fight, and die, to defend my country. I believe this is the greatest country, ever. I don't always agree with leaders of my country, but I love my country. The United States of America is the land of opportunity, with many freedoms. Unfortunately we have let fear take some of these away, but still I love my country.

Too vague a question

To serve the interests of the nation to the best of your ability, to be able to practice your religion, have free speech (within reason), and to practice the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

To be loyal and patriotic and embrace freedom of all kinds

To cherish and exercise freedoms guaranteed to us in the Constitution and its amendments; to be accepting and welcoming of anybody who wants to immigrate to America; and, to help provide an example to the rest of the world that freedom and democracy are worth the struggle to obtain.

WIN

It means I am free to say what's on my mind and know that I have freedom! It means I love my country and am proud to be an American and am thankful for all who serve to protect us, one nation under God!

everything

freedom to express yourself as you see fit

It used to mean acceptance, diversity, and a love of democracy. Now I'm not sure.

Prefer not to enter a response at this time

born in the USA

Freedom to achieve an individual's full potential based on their individual abilities, choices and hard work.

Opportunity to reach for fulfillment of my capabilities, with no 'class' restrictions. Also, the responsibility to fulfill my duties as an American citizen.

it means this is where I was born and live

to have the freedom to do what we want acting within the laws of this great nation

Everyone, whether I agree with them or not, is afforded EQUAL rights

To live in a country allows me to be the Christian I want to be.

I take pride in being an American after four years of active service 9 years in the reserves and years of civic duty , I feel that we need to live by the guide lines set up for legal immigration and stop the flow of illegal immigration

embrace our freedoms but also work to protect the integrity of our country and our fellow men

Support the American way of life at all costs

Being all you want to be. Freedom to be different if you want. FREEDOM!!!!

Having the freedom to do or say things that might not be allowed in other places in regards to political and religious beliefs. Having the freedom to get an education, have a job and earn money as a woman.

Live free or die! to have the right to choose

respect our government, vote, pay taxes, serve jury duty, speak freely, work hard, respect the flag and our servicemen.

Believing in the basic tenants this country was founded on.

poop

It's something to be proud of. This country was begun with certain ideals that still hold true today.

Freedom to express my thoughts and beliefs without government interference. Freedom to be who I am. Freedom to travel. FREEDOM!

I believe it means to revel in the freedoms we enjoy while still remaining a good citizen. I believe this includes being good international citizens but only to the point of being good examples, not opening our lives to any outside influence in the name of globalization.

We were founded on believing in God Jesus and we took his moral as our American standards. I feel to be an American, you should embrace the same standards.

to be free

Damn Proud!

To be free and choose what path you choose. My ancestors were Native American.

Values, beliefs & tolerance

Freedom

To be a citizen of any country in North, Central or South America.

FREEDOM FROM NON DEMOCRATIC POLICIES. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION

freedom and taxed to death

Freedom

Believe in the laws of this country alone and only this country.

One nation under God. Freedom, right to vote, to speak and live free to choose religion

To make little money and work hard. Pay high taxes and get nothing in return.

It means becoming a part of a 'democratic' society.

everything

to be different and free

Only in America are we free to practice (or not) religion as we see fit. Only in America can a poor boy from the wrong side of town grow up to be President. Only in America can you live your dream. Only in America are you allowed to dream the American Dream.

Everything, it is the best in the world

It means that I have freedom for the most part and can go and come as I please, and speak my mind without fear of retaliation or punishment. I can serve God openly & freely!!

Freedom

freedom, god level of living

Freedom

An American is someone who embraces the ideas of liberty.

Freedom

I don't know

It means that I live in the best country in the world and that I have responsibilities. One is to vote, second is to follow the laws of my country. We are so lucky to be free to express our opinions and live as well as our means permit. My country deserves my loyalty and pride. We are still working some things out but everyone must try his/her best to be the best person they can be.

It means speak and pay taxes like everyone else and work like everyone. Nothing is free, you have to earn it.

Believe in the good-will of the American people and the Constitution. A lot of the intangibles are hard to describe.

Work, pay taxes

To stand up for our country and what this country stands for. Our country was founded by our ancestors/forefathers in Christian belief and it should remain that way.

It means being able to stand firmly by my convictions while also letting others stand by theirs -- even when we passionately disagree -- without fear of capricious reprisal by either government forces or the

mobocracy (or most any -ocracy for that matter).

Everything. we have fought hard to keep this the best and we love America

I have a responsibility to uphold life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all and must do my part to defend our country and our freedoms. Everyone has a right to their opinion, but not a right to force it on other people. I am protected under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as are all American citizens.

Loyalty and PATRIOTISM

Born, raised and proud to be an American. An American must have pride, respect for the land and believe in the freedom to choose. A true American does not see a color of skin only that a person is American not African-American or Italian-American just American. The only race that exists to a true American is the Human race. An American likes statements such as: 'the land of the red, white, and the blue.'

I was born here so it's not my doing

To live in the United States and have the freedom to walk around without being afraid. To be able to be independent and work regardless of age or sex.

I'm free

Freedom and the RESPONSIBILITY that comes with it are very important. Freedom means we can choose our own religion, can be critical of the government, can speak our opinions without fearing that we will 'disappear', can work at what jobs we can fulfill without being stuck in an hierarchy (though this doesn't always work!), can speak whatever language we want IN OUR HOMES OR TO OUR CHILDREN. Can pass on our own cultures' food, faith, and priorities without someone else dictating this to us! BUT we must be tolerant of others who are different and realize that though their lifestyles, choices, etc. are different they too have the freedom to pursue their dreams without fear. And a democracy is to be controlled by the majority, not special interest groups. These groups are tolerated as long as they will tolerate others (and I mean ALL others having THEIR freedoms) and are allowed to express their views etc. but are not allowed to dictate or force others into following their ways. I'm thinking of the Nazis, the KKK, the GOP and any other group who uses fear tactics, murder, thievery and pain to control people.

To be flexible, and concerned with stepping back to look at the full picture. To change your mind without losing face. To vote in absolutely every election, no matter how small. To admit mistakes gracefully.

To be free to raise my children in a Christian home.

To be born and raised on America soil.

I believe to be an American means to believe in the principles on which the nation was founded that are the basic tenants of the Christian faith (ten commandments) and freedom to pursue happiness within these guidelines without persecution from government or special interest groups. The freedom to speak your opinion without fear of retribution from anyone who disagrees. The right to live life the way you want to live it and not have anyone invade your privacy or interfere with how you endeavor to raise your children as long as it is within the previous mentioned guidelines.

fat and lazy

An American is an Individualist. That is, he is one who values the use of his own rational mind. He upholds REASON, and consequently he upholds INDIVIDUALISM, and the RIGHTS of the individual to his own LIFE, LIBERTY, and PROPERTY! An American upholds the Constitution of the United States of America, and defends it (with his life if necessary) against ALL who would destroy it and the nation it represents.

I don't know

Freedom and opportunity

There is not enough space to say what it means. It means we have rights and privileges that other nations do not. But they are not FREE, they are paid for by our military and dearly at times. Being an American is choosing this country above all others. I can't abide by a person who comes here, takes advantage of all we have to offer but then demands we change to suit their culture from their country. This is AMERICA, and to live here should be an honor and should not be taken for granted

x

stand for truth and right, uphold a standard of living to the world

doesn't mean much anymore

don't know

Freedom. Of choice, of religion.

to be proud

To practice your own religion or not be religious. Not to be snooped on via telephone or internet usage. Live where you want.

It is a blessing to be an American, we enjoy many more freedoms than other countries. I am grateful for the freedoms we take for granted, i.e. religion, speech, able to pursue and accomplish whatever is important to us personally, schooling that is available to everyone who desires and sometimes has to work hard to get it. It's just a beautiful country to live in.

Speak and read English only in our country.

It means that, I have a job, somewhere to stay, have an education and have my government help out my kids' education.

I obey all of the laws of this country and enjoy all of the freedoms of being an American.

Freedom

THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION. AS IT SAYS IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ONE NATION UNDER GOD. FREEDOM TO GO WHERE I LIKE TO GO WITHOUT SOME TELLING I CAN'T. I AM PROUD TO SAY I AM AN AMERICAN.

no response

It means more to me to be a citizen of the USA

To speak English and honor the constitution

If means being proud of a great country that gives opportunities to everyone and freedom to choose and say what you want

freedom and happiness

Freedom of worship

I'm proud to be an American. I respect the rights of others to worship as they please. I must help to make this county a better place for all.

Freedom

Being an American means I am free to create my own destiny. In America, all you need to do is go to work every day, be honest, follow the 'Golden Rule', and you will have a successful life. If you're an American who is unable to work because you are handicapped or elderly, the government has the

obligation to care for you. This is the greatest country there ever was, but there is some bad. Abortion comes to mind immediately, it is obviously murder. I really find it incredible that all we have learned medically, some people STILL don't think it's murder. It's the most horrible thing in this country that is legal. Abortionists know what they are doing; they are doctors and thus intelligent, but killers all the same. There is no difference between abortionists and Saddam Hussein. Both are murderers and deserve the same fate. But if ever found guilty, the abortionists will just get a needle and go to sleep like your old dog you had for 16 years and loved. They won't be ripped limb from limb as they did to their victims. It's horrible and should be illegal.

Proud of my country, language and culture. Proud of my flag and all the freedoms and responsibilities to keep it

Everything.

Not sure these days. Americans are all screwed up along with this country. We need an ordinary person to fill the shoes of president. One who has no MBA or PHD. Obviously that doesn't do a person any good because they still screw crap up!

To believe in and protect freedom, and to abide by the rule of law

I have been privileged to travel in several countries. I was always very grateful to return to the U.S. I was always willing to work to preserve what we have that is good and work to correct what we have that is bad.

To do my duty, love others, have the ability to speak my mind, keep freedom and peace, and to help others

Freedom to express oneself, freedom of movement, except Bush has taken it away and we live in a police state

To love your fellow Americans

To stand proud and defend for what you believe. Freedom.

Free

To be American means that I am from the greatest country in this world. I'm proud to be from the land of the free and the home of the brave. However, I think some take the 'free' part way too far, it means freedom in being an AMERICAN and the AMERICAN way; such as, speaking English and KNOWING this land was built on the belief of GOD.

Freedom

Ability to choose and believe in any or no religious belief.

Freedom

freedom

It means to be responsible for your actions and those actions should enhance the well being of all citizens of this country regardless of creed, race or economic status.

This is a deep question for a 15 minute survey. To be an American is to love life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To work hard, live generously, have commitment to family, work within the community with a spirit of cooperation, endeavoring for the best life for everyone.

Being an American means that I was born in the land that brought forth values and customs and morals from peoples who came here from all over the world. Those early settlers and those who were born here developed our ways of thinking because of what they saw and felt living elsewhere under restrictive governments and not being able to practice their religions and speak their minds freely. I am proud to be an American, even with an administration whose policies I don't necessarily agree, but I

have the freedom to speak my mind, practice my religion (or not) without consequence and enjoy the value system of what I can learn from other people of other backgrounds who have all come here or were born here like myself.

To be free and happy

it means I have choices and freedom

Hard working, honest

A CITIZEN OF A COUNTRY THAT IS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ALL NATIONS
ECONOMICALLY.

Potential to succeed at anything I try.

freedom to say what you want responsibly, be treated fairly, not be convicted without proof, have purer food and water, the best technology

loyalty to your country

I'm proud to live free to make my own choices

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I am free to worship. If I need a job I can learn the skills needed for the job. I am free within the law to act as I please. I can move about without intimidation. I can discuss religion and politics without trouble - that is unless they pass the hate crimes bill.

Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to squander lots of money creating wars with countries not looking for them while ignoring our own citizenry.

I have great freedoms that some other countries don't have.

freedom

To be able to express my opinions without being persecuted. Make choices without limitations imposed by others. Free to be what I choose and be able to endow my children with these same inalienable rights.

To be free. To have social security that we pay into that should not be given to just anyone who walks across the border illegally.

I always have been American and always will be. It is most important

It means you have the opportunity to be whatever you choose to be and work towards that goal.

obeying laws, helping the needy/caring, etc.

freedom commitment loyal unity god fear

I am very proud to have been born an American! To have the right to vote for who I want in office. To be a free American. I am grateful to be living in the great USA.

Freedom

To believe in God, the Constitution, to be Free, the Freedom and choice to vote, to feel safe in our country, to believe in our President, Senate and Congress, to want to help other countries but make sure our people here in the USA are taken care of FIRST.

wyhrsx6it7y

To be loyal to the US and to obey its laws

To me being an American means I have the rights under the Constitution of the United States
freedom of speech freedom of choice any and all rules regarding the common law our United States
was founded under up to and including God

Freedom to do and think whatever I want.

freedom

To believe in the constitution of the United States and to abide by laws and regulations set forth.

my life to be free god bless America

to love your country and the freedoms we are allowed

Respect for your fellow country man/women. We all have the right to agree and disagree, but once it becomes the rule of law, all citizens should follow the law. Being an American means that we have the freedom of choice in what church we attend or not attend, where you choose to work, enter the military or do public service, and vote in every local, state and national election. You also have the right to save and or give away your personal funds to who you want to receive them. Finally, as an American, you can live where ever you want to in a city, farm or on a houseboat on a lake.

Being able to live one's life as they want within laws of the U.S.

It means so very much. Freedom to do so many things ,worship without being accosted, etc.

We are lucky to have the freedoms we have. We are one nation and we need to keep it that way. If people don't want to speak English or believe in our constitutional rights than they have no right trying to immigrate to our country.

Our country is the best in the world but at the present time, our leaders are not acting in our best interests

I live in a country where I can voice my opinion without fear of reprisal, my children can go to good schools and I can earn decent money for a good day's work

Freedom with a social responsibility. Equal rights for all and equal access to basic human needs, education, health care.

Freedom

To be a part of this country and to be tolerant of religious views. To participate in free commerce and capitalism

By fate, I am so lucky to have been born in America. Sometimes I'm not proud of being American nor am I proud of my country; however, I would not ever want to live anywhere else.

live free able to speak and discuss issues

The freedom and right to do as we please, according to the laws set up by the constitution.

I feeling of great pride.

To have free speech, freedoms for all people (no matter the race, sex or religion). To be compassionate and caring towards others.

It means that I have a great deal for which to be grateful and a great deal of which to be ashamed. There are many things that America does right but just as many that it does wrong. I am very blessed with the prosperity in my life now but I fear the future when the US will be held accountable for all the harm it has done to other countries and people. Greed is what is going to ruin this country.

To be born here. To want to participate, positively in community affairs

It means I am free to live how I want and I am free to express my views even if others don't agree.

Have freedoms only dreamed of in most other countries

To be free to speak my mind

Someone who is an individual with individual rights and privileges.

Proud to be a participant in the greatest experiment in social democracy in history.

Even with its problems, best country in the world

I feel an American can hold true to their heritage but must unite under the oath and ideas of American beliefs. I feel that I should not have to give up my religious preference (Christian) in public in order not to offend, while others are allowed to openly pray to Allah, or make statement about their beliefs without worry of being politically correct. As an American, I feel all religions should have the right to worship publicly. As an American, I enjoy the freedom that our military troops, over centuries have fought to maintain. We are blessed in America, to have the right to make our own decision, failures and success, regardless of race, gender or religious preference. We are the melting pot of the world representing different cultures, countries and backgrounds. But as Americans, we should remain loyal to the country we choose to reside. If you don't like our language, belief or government, then find another country to reside. Don't try to make my country like your country you left behind. There is a reason you left it behind.

Be proud of the country I live in and VERY thankful to those that made it possible to be free.

I have freedom of speech can work or stay home to take care of family have more freedom then most other people in other countries. I support all the troops if wasn't for them we wouldn't be able to do a lot of stuff

Pride in my country

An american should be proud of their country and respect its laws and constitution

It means living in a country that allows its citizens to pursue life, liberty and freedom within the laws of the city, county, state and country.

That more and more people are trying to change what our country has stands for. I believe if they do not like the way we have been, and they cannot adjust, they should not come here or stay

To Defend the country and to be free. Everyone has equal rights.

To have freedom

Freedom

Support and be loyal to your country to enjoy all its freedoms

It means freedom to express my beliefs and to respect the constitution as it was written by our forefathers.

We are a proud and free country

It means living in a country that has more freedom to choose how we live

Speak English. Be American. Not this-American or that-American. Being able to have freedom.

Freedom and the responsibility to do whatever is necessary to keep it free.

Freedom

IT MEANS THAT I RESPECT THE RIGHTS & FREEDOMS OF OTHERS & LIVE WITH THEM AS

EQUALS IN GODS EYES.

Don't have that much time

To be descended from Western European immigrants and to believe in the rights of individuals as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

To be a light to the world; as President Reagan said 'A City on a Hill'. To be free and abide by freedoms and rights afforded us by our founding fathers. To be able to be a Christian without fear of persecution from those not of like mind.

It means that we are free people that have rights and are able to live a good life.

I am proud of the freedoms we have, and our system of government, though faulty, is the best.

A privilege to have been born here, with all of our freedoms that are not available to most of the people in the world. Some have recently gained these freedoms and I was lucky enough to serve our country in the U.S. Marines. We are able to speak as we please and do what we want but these freedoms are being eroded by our government and the Big Business mentality that they are above the law. Our politicians are corrupt and need to be curtailed but the sheep populace does not have the guts to stand up to them.

More freedom than most other countries. Better standard of living.

To be free to work for your dreams

Free to be yourself within reason

Freedom

Free to believe in whatever religion, able to strive for the pursuit of happiness and welfare.

I get to live in the greatest nation in the world, and so does my family

Privileged to be in the most generous and caring country in the world.

It means freedom and respect for our country

Proud

To freely say 'I am a Christian' and to Worship Our God, Through His Son Jesus. There is more but this is most important.

Living life as you choose without imposing on others. Being involved in the political process by exercising your right to vote and shape policy. Caring for your fellow citizens through community initiatives. Supporting the government while also demanding competent leadership and adherence to the Constitution.

The right to express my views in the manner that I feel will reach the most people without infringing on others rights and the right to maintain my private life without interference from any other source.

We fought for this country and we maintain this country. We are free to choose what we want to do in our lives under the constitution! I be willing to die for this country if I have to protect our sovereignty because I won't let any imports come in trying to change things pushing their so called culture like these damn Mexicans are trying to do whom wants to invade our country and make it their home without going through the proper channels to become a US citizen. Besides this is the land of the free and the home of the brave, everyone is welcome to come just as long they come into this country 'LEGALLY!!!!'

Upholding what it takes to help the country work smoothly.

Honestly, I'm not so sure anymore. I understand the ideals that this country were founded upon but have watched a relentless attack upon them over the past few years by the very people who have sworn to uphold them. To me, being an American means having a social conscience, to be concerned with the challenges that so many of our citizens face every day and, working to help alleviate them.

THE PROTECTION OF THE FINEST MILITARY IN THE WORLD!!!!!!

Have the freedom to practice your religion and values without prosecution, but also respect others religion and values. Obey the laws of the government and constitution.

Live here

Freedom

Having the freedom and opportunities to choose what is best for myself and my family.

Being loyal to the USA. Exercising your voting privilege. Being able to read and speak the language. Defending the country from those who would take away our freedom.

To vote and say what is in your heart.

To be able to live, worship, and elect freely

I am very proud to be an American and my husband is in the US Coast Guard. I wish we would do more to provide for our own military

Freedom to do what I want. Freedom to believe what I want. Ability to actually make money.

Many freedoms - freedom to think and speak and do many things

Freedom

Freedom to stay within laws set up. Great benefits of schools, jobs and a better life overall

To take pride in your country, to live, work and be American. To have respect for what your country stands for, and to continue to make it a better place for all people

Freedom to work, Freedom to believe in God, Freedom to vote as I want. Freedom to go where I want or need to. Freedom is a privilege we should treasure, not the right to abuse our country.

To me, being an American means that I am free to practice the religion of my choice. I have the freedom to move about in the United States. I have the responsibility to follow the laws of the land. To respect the flag of the United States and our American way of life that so many of our citizens have fought and died to protect. It does NOT mean to come into this country illegally and try to destroy it or disrespect it.

na

Could not imagine any other way of life

To be free and able to think and speak your mind.

FREEDOM of choice first and foremost!!!

Freedom of choice and pride in my country and those that came before and made sacrifices to enable us to be free.

It means guarantees to freedom, not just governmental promises of freedom. The country belongs to the people. This is unlike any other democracy.

I'm not sure anymore

Not sure

To be proud of your country and your flag.

n/a

Freedom to live like an American and participate as American in the American ways

It means pride and freedom

To be proud of your country and stand by its policies, including the right to make any changes in the policies. Changing the policies by using the proper guidelines set up by our country.

It means having freedom and being a citizen to the best country in the world.

That I am free

Free to do whatever you want as long as it does not hurt the country or its citizens.

To live in a country where I am able to become anything I want to be and have the freedom to choose.

A privilege and an honor and should be open to those who believe the same.

A good example for the rest of the world

It means that you can be anything you want to be and live your life basically the way that you want. Freedom is more so than any other country in the world.

Freedom, power over government, and free enterprise

Believing in American ideals (democracy, freedom, equality, etc.) or being an American citizen

Freedom of Choice

I can say what I think, get involved in making changes in systems that I think need to change, home school my children, read books of my choosing, start a business, use alternative medicine approaches--all without fear.

Believing in the freedom we have here

TO BE AN AMERICAN IS TO PROTECT AND VALUE OUR FREEDOM THAT WE HAVE FOUGHT REPEATEDLY FOR!

It means that I am part of a country which was founded on the principles of freedom for all citizens who abide by and uphold the constitution of the United States. It means I am free, and I have a responsibility to do what I can to make my country a better place for those who live here and for those who are our future generations. It means I am proud of my country and our heritage.

It means I live in the greatest country in the world and that we enjoy freedoms that people of other countries only dream about.

Freedom to make my own choices to live where I choose and how I choose. I have traveled to Europe and find that our way of life is much better. The simple things like telephone systems are superior. Each time I return, I thank God that I am an American!

Being able to disagree with your government without having to be afraid of imprisonment or death.

Freedom, opportunity, pride

Freedom to do almost anything you want without fear of repercussions.

Freedom

On one hand I believe being an American is a sign of freedom, patriotism, bravery, intellect, innovation and community. Unfortunately lately it seems we are imprisoned, blindly patriotic, weak, ignorant, unoriginal and selfish.

Freedom to do as we believe, but abiding by the laws set by our constitution.

Born and raised in the USA

Freedom.

To be free.

It means being part of a people with diverse backgrounds and cultures and to respect and accept those differences without forcing them to give up those things. Being afforded the opportunities of a free society and also taking responsibility for making this a great nation.

Born in the US or volunteered to be naturalized. You can be American and believe or stand for either side of any argument, and say so.

Home of the brave and land of the free.

Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness is the greatest of all American creeds.

FREEDOM pursuit of life liberty and freedom

My birth country. I'm grateful I was born an American - the great 'experiment' that, so far, seems to be working pretty well (republic with a representative democracy)

I have the freedom to be myself, and believe whatever I want to

That I am free to live, work and worship as I feel led. People have paid a high price for my freedom and I appreciate it a great deal. I am ashamed that we are trying to dilute our society with liberal laws that don't require people to assimilate into the culture as has been the case historically. I am proud to be an American.

To live by the law, and to not take for granted all of the freedoms and other things we have in this country. To support our fellow man and woman as we would like to be supported. Care for the younger and older segments of our society.

White

Everything that our father died for, freedoms we have.

To be proud of and support the country I live in.

Uphold the constitution and the bill of rights.

To me, it means being open minded & embracing & a lover of freedom. Obviously, this is not what it means to a lot of people here.

It means that I have the freedom to speak my mind, to worship according to my beliefs, to travel across the country freely, to have as many children as I want without being penalized. It means there are decent standards where I work, that I can get a good education, that my opinions matter and I am personally respected. I belong to a Christian nation that has standards of how every person should be treated: equally.

A lot of things.

Freedom of choice and freedom of religion.

Its my way of life, can't compare to anything else.

Don't know

Value freedoms we have, help others

Freedom

Freedom

To be loyal, respect and fight for the Constitution as meant by our founding fathers. To be free as no other country. To keep the values/moral standards high as an example to the world.

Everything

Freedom to make a choice

Freedom, happiness, fear of no other country.

The opportunity to live in a free country and follow your own pursuits.

I am a United States Sailor. I believe in our country enough to give up my life for our freedom, if that is what it takes. Enough said.

Freedom in all aspects of my life.

It means freedom to be

Free

To be educated and informed

To believe and abide by our laws and if you don't you get punished and deported if you are not a citizen

Embracing American values of freedom, tolerance, and civic responsibility.

Pride of being in a country that was founded on the premise that the people granted certain rights to the federal government based on our constitution. Not some ruling of some activist judges or court. Being able to enjoy the freedoms of this nation. Not the government. or some leader has granted

Freedom to be able to do as you want within the laws and constitution.

Being able to believe what you believe, say what you want to say and not be killed for it. Follow the ten commandments and share your bounty with those that are in need.

FREE

To be able to do things freely Have a family and go to the beach when we want to.

Being part of the greatest country in the world. Be willing to sacrifice to preserve way of life, democrats and liberals can go elsewhere!

Having the freedom to express one's thoughts without being harmed. Being safe in general. Being thoughtful of others and aware of how fortunate we are.

At the moment I am ashamed.

Freedom ,Independence, and love of fellow Americans

If you don't know you shouldn't be here.

With freedom and justice for all.

To be free.

I have the freedom to pursue my dreams.

Loyal to our country. Freedom of speech. Freedom for everything.

Free

Freedom to my opinions even if they are incorrect

I cannot say as I have never been a citizen of another country. I have nothing to compare it with.

Freedom

Free

To be free in all aspects of what that means

All people are given the right to be who they are and act the way they wish, as long as it does not impede on another person's right to exist.

Freedom and responsibility to help other countries.

Freedom, being able to pursue your dreams, it's the greatest country to live in.

To have the freedom to make choices and the freedom to be safe from the bad choices of others, and
To realize the price that the freedom has and be willing to fight for it.

Not to be dictated too, free choice, be proud. You earn the American dollar you should act as one and follow the American culture.

I have a voice. I can express my opinion openly and safely without persecution or punishment. By voting, I help determine the course of my government.

We are a Christian nation that surpasses every other country in human rights, moral conduct, government operation, and world caring. We will not allow other religions, or other ideologies to try to infuse their beliefs into our country.

To be free to worship the religion of my choice; to be free to live and work where I choose; to respect the laws of the USA; to respect the US flag and all it stands for

Freedom to be an American. Not a foreigner.

Free

To have freedom to live and enjoy life.

Not living in a mud hut.

I'm proud to be an American, we have the freedom to worship our Holy God anywhere we choose and so do our children. We are free to choose our own way and many Americans have fought and died so we can have this right.

Proud

I am very proud to be an American. I have freedoms that many other nations' peoples do not have, and those freedoms are everything to me!

The guarantee of rights.

I have the freedom to disagree with any national issues.

God-fearing, Bible believing, English speaking, flag waving patriot.

FREE and proud.

Proud

To be taxed to death, told what to think and say and make new laws every time someone whines.

To have freedoms guaranteed by the constitution, speak English or learn how to speak English

To live in a place where I am free to make my own choices and decisions

I should always inform myself about the issues and candidates in each and every election, register to vote, and VOTE in every election I am eligible to vote in. I should pay all taxes due each year to support the functioning of our duly elected government. Any protest or support I feel necessary, should be expressed verbally, peacefully in assembly, and by my vote.

To be a legal citizen of this country. To be loyal to its laws, and constitution, and be willing to fight and die to keep them.

To believe in my country and trust (and hope) that our leaders do their best to serve our country.

To be an active member in the US. Hold a job, go to school, become a productive person.

To have loyalty to this country and to serve and protect the constitution.

I believe that America is the greatest, most generous and strongest country in the world. As an American I have the freedom to live where I want, say what I want and the freedom to worship where I want. I believe and am thankful that I am among the most fortunate people in the world to have been born and raised in such a wonderful and free country.

Follow the laws and principles of our constitution, federal, and state governments, and practice responsible freedom by participating in the betterment of our world.

To be free to say what I want, worship where I want and work where I want

To have freedom of speech, religion, press. To live by the laws of the Constitution, and love our country.

Being an American is a blessing from God. We have the freedom to worship as we choose, to question our leaders, to vote for change, to speak and move about freely. We have a duty to defend our country, our flag, and our freedoms. And we owe a tremendous debt to those who have served in the military to defend our freedoms.

To believe in what the forefathers fought for and to have the right to believe in what you want.

Freedom

Everything!

The right of the people to speak their mind and free elections

It means we are free to do so many things and have many opportunities.

Freedom of choice

It means no more to me that it has meant to every other American in history. It is not what America can do for us, but what we can do for America, which means that we need to make America what it should be. In short we are America and we make it what it is. The best thing about our government is we know that the leaders of today will not be the leaders of tomorrow and though we might not like what is done is done today and can't change the opinion of our leader for the next 4 years we can make it better later with the help of ourselves.

Free

To embrace the ' American culture' that includes the language and beliefs.

Freedom and the responsibility to abide by the laws of my city, state and country.

No comment

Right now to me it does not mean much as we are letting the government take more and more of our freedom

Uphold our constitution, follow the laws of the US and abide by the US rules.

Privileged and honored.

Home of the free

To be able to live my life in a country that allows me to work, play, love and coexist in the best way I can without government telling me what I cannot do as long as I stay legal and consider others in my decisions.

I wouldn't be anything else. This country has its problems; probably fewer, but maybe more than most other countries. I would rather be here and be a citizen of this country than any other.

We are very lucky to be born here there is so much fighting going on in other countries and starvation is horrible to see some of the things over there. Yes, we are very lucky and should be very thankful.

To be part of a society that values individual freedoms and who will do and give anything to defend that freedom. While people should be free to practice their culture, religion and interests, they should also be free of any culture, religion or interest that wants to take away our freedoms. Hence we should not tolerate anyone who opposes our constitution or way of life.

That I live in a country where I am free to have my own ideas, worship the way I choose, express myself without fear of retribution and seek to work hard and achieve as many dreams as I can within the laws of the United states.

Freedom to do what one wants to do legally.

To have freedoms that many countries do not, to be able to express yourself without persecution.

Loyal, honest, free, God fearing, man or woman whom is willing to give it their all not only for the betterment of their own pocketbook but for the betterment of their family, neighbors, friends and their country's well being not only financially but morally and honestly and objectively helping each other

That I happened to be born in a country that they call 'America'.

That would simply take too long to answer.

Freedom

To live in North America. To see the 'stars and stripes' and feel pride. To believe that you are protected against the misuse of power and that you do have a say in what happens in the government.

Proud

America is most important. We support every nation for everything and it should get the same in return, what we stand and believe in other countries should abide. Why should we learn a second or even third language to accommodate others?

It means a lot of our American soldiers fight and fought so we could be a free country. It means loving your country and serving it. It means if you don't like the way it is, then go back to where ever you came from.

To be proud to be from a country that's totally free.

Freedom!!! Free speech, religion, right to bear arms. The constitution says it best.

It means free and fair elections and Constitutional protections. It means I can carry a gun and have the right to petition the government if they have done something outside the bounds of the Constitution.

I am proud to protect and defend our constitution; I wish this administration felt the same way

Freedom of choice, speech, and how I want to live my life.

Follow the customs of the U.S.A. and the constitutional rights. Fight for and protect the country and the people. Speak English. Respect our president and our veterans.

It used to mean a lot and was very important. Now we are very much leaning towards communist thinking, even at state levels, especially Michigan.

Freedom

To be an American is to live in the best country in the world, a nation founded by men and women who sought, with the help of God, to escape tyranny and live in freedom.

Serve my country, Vote!!!!!!

I am so grateful to have been born in America. I am very proud of to be an American.

Freedom

To be free and have a say in the policy that rules everyone in this country.

If you are not willing to do the things necessary to become a citizen of the United, you shouldn't be able to. Evidently, the people that don't want to abide by the rules would be a danger to the U.S. anyway.

Personal freedom

Freedoms which are specified in the constitution, ability to lead the life I choose, to be relatively free from persecution by others.

To be free

N/A

Freedom

It means everything to be a part of a country where standards are high. We need to protect these values and not go back to the values of other countries.

Ashamed that we insist on foisting our values on those who reside elsewhere. I want a government limited to arbitrating and regulating the NON-CONSENSUAL interactions of those subject to our jurisdiction and leaving those not subject to our jurisdiction to their own devices. I don't want my government to be a permanent in loco parentis.

free,kind,english,proud

become an american by following our laws, customs, language and becoming part of the 'melting pot'

That I can live my life as I choose.

To uphold the beliefs in our constitution that our forefathers set up and that when there is disagreement that sometimes the laws might have to be rewritten to keep up with progress that has taken place since the rules were written.

Happy and free from federal government's interference into that which is constitutionally allotted to the

States. Education, murder, etc.

To be an American is to have freedoms that other countries do not.

Freedom

It is a privilege. I am very fortunate to live here.

You have freedoms. Those freedoms were fought for and won by the United states soldiers, some of which were immigrants, they believed in the US of A, ONE NATION UNDER GOD.

Does not mean much anymore.

My freedom plus the ability to travel anywhere in this country without being harassed by the police, allowed to practice any religion without fear.

Freedom of choice within the confines of the law.

It means freedom of speech and a free trial .It means freedom .

It means a great deal. The ability to protest, to vote, to succeed or fail based on your own abilities. I feel I am blessed to be an American

It used to mean the right to freedom of expression, religion, the pursuit of happiness, the right to protect ones property (bear arms), and the right to raise my children in a safe, free nation. Over the past 10 to 20 years it has become the necessity to shield my children and myself from the increasingly vulgar and profane expression of others, the persecution of my belief in Christ as the Lord of creation, the right of the criminal to have more rights than his victims, and the fear that my youngest child will be shot while attending elementary school because the right and will of parents to discipline their children has been undermined, nay, removed by a warped theory of 'child psychology' that says children are just expressing themselves when they act out and disobey. I am conservative. I believe that God is still the Omnipotent Ruler of the Universe, even if it seems that most of the citizens of the United States have forsaken Him for a lifestyle of debauchery, gossip, and violence. I believe in disciplining my children when they are disobedient and 'pulling in the reins' when they rebel. I believe in MARRIAGE BEFORE SEX and I believe in fidelity. THESE are the ideals I believe America was built from and to protect.

I was born here.

It means being free within our own system of government, free from the tyranny of radicals who would do their best to dissolve our system. There are rules necessary for every government. People are free to follow these rules or be punished. It is their right, their freedom of choice.

Money

An American is a person who believes in the respect for an individual and the check and balance of the government.

NO comment!!!

To me, being an American means I have fought for freedoms others in the world do not have. I can worship my God the way I choose to. I can go where I want to. I can earn a living and keep for myself what the taxing agencies do not require. Being an American means I have something people in other parts of the world do not have - the right to choose and not be told what I must do. And I thank my God for a place like this.

Free to do whatever I want.

Learn English, learn the laws of America, and Be proud of your country. In public speak only English. If not go back to the country you fled from.

To live in America and work and worship God and raise a family in the United States of America and

obey the laws of this country and contribute to the economy and peace of the community.

The freedom to come and go as I please, for the most part, and not worry about dying every time I leave my home.

To uphold our Constitution for the way it was truly written and intended.

Free

Freedom of speech and be who you are and not be told what you can and cannot believe in

To believe in your country and be proud of it.

Loyalty to the country and also the right to preserve my own traditions.

I believe being an American means I have more rights than I might have in many other countries. I believe that being a woman in many places would mean I would have even less freedoms than we have in the U S. But I also feel the country is slowly taking away many of our freedoms. The rights to smoke and drink and gamble etc. are getting so restrictive and even though I know these are areas that need to be regulated for good reason it's also taking away personal choices and I fear that more important things could come under fire in the future.

Freedom

It means to be loyal to our country no matter what and fight what's right thru our government and must speak English to become a citizen.

Being an American means having the Freedoms to live, earn our livings, participate in our government, and worship as we desire to. We live in the best country in the world, and although we are in hard times with a President that does not live up to our expectations, we have the right and ability to change that. And that is what makes The United States of America such a great country.

We have a democracy and because of that we are free to be who we are without the threat of jail or being shot. We live by a constitution that laid the ground for a free country. We do not believe everyone must worship one person/God, we are allowed to come and go as we please. The government does not control our entire being.

Adhering to the founding beliefs of this nation: freedom for all, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, tolerance where not infringing on the rights of the many, freedom of choice, and determining one's own path and goals in life.

To have the freedom of speech

As an Orthodox Jew, I feel that it is important to show loyalty to America. I feel that English should be the official language of the United States (I didn't know until recently that it wasn't), and that all immigrants should have to demonstrate knowledge of English the same as they do of some history before they can become citizens. However, that doesn't mean that immigrants should have to discard all of their culture and values. We as Jews do not embrace many of the current values of the people of this country, but as long as they are not being shoved in our faces, feel that we have our values and culture which is for us and others can have theirs. It doesn't take away from our being responsible citizens, but it still keeps us separate to a certain degree. This is important to us for many reasons, but we still learn the language, and learn and respect the laws of the country.

Being free to do what I want when I want. I can say what I want and not worry.

An American should uphold their laws. If you want to be an American fine. You can hold onto your beliefs as long as they don't infringe on others' rights. I believe in tolerance & respect, but only if those who are born American receive it in kind. You don't dare come into our country & expect to have the sense of entitlement that you do. One needs to earn legally what they desire.

Being an American means to stand for the principals set up in the constitution for our safety and freedom. We should be proud of what we have and not be disappointed in America and what it stands for.

To be proud of my country and its accomplishments and being willing to do the right thing even if no one else in the world agrees.

to be free, respect my country, the president and all the laws

It means freedom to live my life as I see fit.

Freedom of speech, religion, and a chance to better ourselves with education.

I am proud but just hopeful for all the world

Freedom of speech. Free to believe my religion

To follow the rules of the constitution, freedom of religion, free speech and they must learn English as a first language..

Freedom

Lucky to be born here

You speak English, you're free.

Everything

Free

To have the freedom to express what I want without fear of retribution or censorship, at least on paper.

Freedom to express yourself, as in answering these questions

I'm proud to live in a country we're i earn the things that are given to me. where there's a working class and people who have values.

It means expressing your opinions and desires by voting and not complaining when you don't vote; and paying taxes;

It means freedom and all that's included in freedom, such as freedom of religion, speech, etc.

To be in a land where your rights as an individual are PROTECTED. That you can do anything you want with your career choice, having the freedom to speak your mind, choose your religion, freedom to vote, bear arms, and gather peacefully to express your opinion. To have crappy health care, to be 27th in the world in math and science, to be totally overrun with BIG GOVT. But this can all change if we elect someone who would fight some of these issues. I know Iraq and Iran think American means that you bully other countries, and impose yourself on others to do what you think it best for them. This is NOT American and does not represent me.

Pride

FREEDOM. Freedom to worship in my way without exclusion or forced inclusion, and abiding by the laws of this country for safety and liberty. Not to be treated specially but equally in a country founded on Christian truth and holding fast to the values hard fought for and established by those who came before us seeking freedom from over government and under prosperity. Not to do as we please individually with disregard for unity or liberty.

To be honest, this is difficult. As a trained anthropologist and a person who grew up living and traveling all over the US, I am aware of the marginal populations in this country. The disgraceful state of our health system and educational system. What does it mean, to me, to be an American? It means that I am an unwitting and unwilling participant in many acts of discrimination and many acts of theft from

people in this country who can least afford it. It means that I am seen as a representative of a country that has been involved in many tragedies. It means that in the supposed great country of wealth, no class system, and deep empathy - I have to watch as our leader lies his way out of his responsibilities in assisting the people of his own country after a disastrous hurricane. And that the people in those areas are still suffering because of unnecessary bureaucracy. In our country, a seriously injured or ill person can be turned away from a hospital or clinic because they do not have insurance (or the proper insurance). This includes women in labor. I am a realist who knows how the American system truly works - and it is not the America that is 'sold' to people in other countries or even to American citizens. For that, I am sad.

It's where I was born, and I agree with the stated values of our government, but not always with its actions.

Proud

Freedom. Equal opportunity (not necessarily equal outcome). Less government interference. Strict government adherence to the Constitution.

Being free

To live in a country with values, freedom, and have faith in our government.

To be part of the best country in the world, that we roll up our sleeves when natural disaster strikes or other countries who would try and divide us and bring us down.

I can do whatever I want as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. I can make choices to live and work where I want to and go to church when and where I want.

Freedom of religion and speech

Liberty, freedom to praise and worship God, to be able to pursue any career

Actively participate in all elections. Protect the constitution and the Bill of Rights. Support yourself and family, unless disabled and unable to work. Obey all laws.

To be an American means that you abide by all the laws here. That you are a good person that you never speak negatively about the US. God should be allowed to be talked about freely and He should not be banned from the government buildings etc.

Loyalty, freedom, respect, honor

Born in the US or Nationalized. An American should be knowledgeable of what is going on in government.

I have certain rights and freedoms that no one can take away from me. My life is pretty much my own to do with what I want as long as I am not injuring another person. I have the right to speak my mind without retaliation from the government (as long as no threats are involved)

I decline to respond.

To be proud of your country

To be protected (militarily) by the government and free to pursue a happy, free life.

It means that I was born here.

To be free.

Freedom, democracy, the right to own and bear arms, freedom of religion, separation of church and state

Belief in the values of property, liberty and freedom for each individual.

Freedom

I am not sure

It means to be patriotic and loyal.

To live in the best country in the world and have the freedom to worship God as I wish, and the freedom to speak my mind and vote as I wish (with a stipulation of responsibility).

Patriotic

That you are the best of the best and you love to live a free life with no fear.

To live in America, and to understand/know, believe and follow the Constitution, and everything else that our founding fathers stood for and gave their lives for.

Decline to answer

To be active in government and political issues.

Being an American is appreciating my country and doing what I can to make it a better place to live in.

We have the right to choose what we want to choose and we have our freedom to go where we want to go and when we want to go.

To have freedom

Pride

I'm not sure. Geographical? Citizenship? Knowing and acknowledging that you are American?

To have our basic freedoms, rights and privileges to live as we wish. To be able to have equality. To vote for our representatives in government of the people for the people etc.

An American is a person that accepts their country, and values. They do whatever they can to help the country as well.

To live in the greatest country in the world.

To believe and uphold American democracy, beliefs and laws, such as freedom of speech, religion. Discrimination should never be embraced. That all citizens have the right to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. All citizens should have access to public education through 12th grade.

Freedom and rights

Freedom

Freedom and liberty

Not sure

It means a lot. I do not like the way other people view this country (negatively) although I can understand why they do. I think that somewhere along the line the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness was lost. I think that being an American means that you have not lost that original spirit. I think that it means that you are open to all ideas no matter how different they are. It is about being accepting and willing to learn.

To have all the freedoms in the constitution and bill of rights. But to also remember that your individual freedoms end where your neighbors' begins. In other words, freedom is relative. You must respect other people and their freedoms.

To be free and live under the terms set forth by the us constitution. Freedom SHOULD be a right as

was declared by this doctrine.

To live in the Americas. I live in the United States of America.

To be an upstanding citizen that works towards the betterment of the country and its values.

The ability to be free from any tyrannical forces.

It means, to me, that as an American, I have a responsibility to show the world what an American SHOULD be. That means being smart, educated, and be involved in politics and things. And be able to read maps, as some U.S. Americans don't have maps.

To be a citizen: uphold the constitution, abide by the laws, support yourself, treat all people with respect and with equal opportunity, fight against racism and sexism, maintain the two party system but as conservative or Liberal. Be against the policies of the Bush administration.

Being an American means you must love and honor our nation, as well as represent it and American values.

To me, being an American means being a citizen and/or resident of the United States of America. I also think the term American implies that there is some feeling of civic duty to the U.S. given one's citizenship/residency there.

To love your country, and everything about it

Patriotic, stand up for your beliefs and be willing to fight for them as our forefathers did.

To be free to express my opinion, and to be able to live my life how I see fit to live it.

Born here

Free.

Free.

To embrace the American culture, to live here for many years and to feel like a part of America.

Follow, understand and live by American laws and beliefs!

To believe that America is your home and no other place should come before it.

Being an American give me the freedoms and rights that other countries do not provide.

Free

To be free

To be a God-fearing moral and ethical individual.

Freedom of choice, speech and religion. The ability to be and do as one chooses.

To be able to live freely.

Freedom in all aspects of life.

To be able to have certain rights

Living in America. Loyalty to my country. Family, education, job and happiness.

Proud.

Taking part in your country, not just taking your past history from your country and keeping it here. It's about adapting... America is the mixed pot country BUT there has to be some assimilating.

Most of all I love the freedom to do whatever you like under the law.

An American (not just someone living here) takes an active part in our political system, as well as legal. Not always because they believe it's the right way, but because they know their vote can effect change.

If you don't like it here, don't come or leave.

It means that I should have all the rights, freedom and responsibilities provided by the Constitution and the Laws of the State.

United States of America is a country that should value freedom above all else. We fear nothing. We (the citizens) embrace and uphold the Constitution of the United States (this IS the supreme law).

Fighting for what our ancestors fought for. Freedom of religion.

Being free but patriotic and loyal to your country.

Privileges, different cultures, freedom of speech; (but not total freedom for some).

Freedom

It's awesome. We have freedom that not many other countries have, and a lot of people don't realize how lucky we are

Wanting to build a better life for yourself and for your children than what your parents had, and building that life without fear of a tyrannical government. Being an American also means accepting people from all different backgrounds and races for who they are... people, as every American comes from somewhere else themselves.

In this day and age an American means capitalism. I believe in what America was founded on, but that has fallen way short in the past 80 years.

To be born within, or to immigrate to, the United States.

Being an American means you are usually free to do what you want, you have greater opportunities than any other place in the world, you are probably overweight, and disliked by other countries because you waste a lot and pollute too much.

To be proud of who you are now, and to also remember why my family came to the United States, because it is a great county

Being an American means that a person has an investment in the continuation of the NATION as an ongoing PROJECT, both in its existence and in its ideals. This may often include resisting leadership who threatens the well-being of this project.

I feel a sense of pride, and a sense of responsibility.

It means that I have the privilege to be a citizen of the greatest nation on Earth and a duty to preserve that nation for my children.

It means to have the freedom to practice religion and have other rights that other countries do not have.

To live in America and embrace the ideals of freedom, the constitution and a free market economy.

It means to be enriched by all the differences in the people around me. To be an American is to love those freedoms enough to be an active citizen, one who learns about candidates and issues and votes my conscience every time there is an election. It means I can disagree without landing in jail.

It is a privilege to be protected and worked at with sacrifice for that privilege. Lock the door and get our guns out if the Islamism jerks want to take our country over with their perversions.

That is a very hard question. I grew up here, but I was not born here. There is a difference in saying

what we would LIKE it to be like, but also in what it actually is. Being American is different to every single one of us, and is perhaps the answer. To allow differences in harmony.

Freedom and ability to have a voice in what our government does.

Equality

Freedom

To be free to choose religion and how we live while working to help those less fortunate than we are.

As a naturalized citizen I am grateful to be able to do (within reason) and worship as I please. Voting is not a guaranteed right in most other countries.

Live free

Live in a democratic society

To believe in the freedom to choose.

To be faithful to the American country and uphold its laws

Pride of country

Proud to be a part of society. The average American is a caring open minded person.

Proud, free, strong and English speaking. Proudly displaying the American Flag everywhere and allowing God in our Schools and system like it used to be. Showing right from wrong by having the commandments taught and shown. Standing up for the way things should be and not letting others take away God, American Flag and so forth, to incorporate their own from another country. If they want that then they should go home. America is the land of the free and the American flag and such is what that stands for. If we let others take it away then we are no longer what we used to be.

Freedom, pride

Democratic system

Pass

It means to be proud of this country and to believe 'all' that it stands for. And to 'accept' all its documents and traditions that make us Americans.

To have the personal freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution with the understanding that with freedom comes responsibility.

Less government persecution for expressing ones opinion, as long as you express it the way the government says you are allowed to. A demonstration may end in jail time but probably not in an execution, unless they think you are a terrorist and then they will hold you indefinitely in jail without charging you.

To live as I choose, to not be held down by other people's wishes, and to live free, as we all should...

To be free, and to question what is right and what is wrong about our world.

You live in the US

Nothing

Love the country, speak the language and make an honest living.

It is who I am.

Speak English and abide by our laws

It's frightening watching this experiment in democracy give way to fascism through greed, ignorance and apathy. It's shameful to see how our imperialism is turning us into the same decadent culture as Rome before its fall. Multi-national corporations with little accountability make our policies and our poor are coaxed into protecting their labor pools overseas while our jobs are being outsourced. For me, being an American is a struggle. We have a bigger fight for freedom right in this country than we have a threat from abroad.

Law abiding, tax paying, contributing citizen that upholds and honors the laws put forth by both the Federal and State governments.

I am proud to be an American! I believe this country was founded on a basis of freedom with responsibility and honor and I respect those who work hard to protect that freedom.

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That depends. Eight years ago I would have said I was proud to be an American. After what this administration has done, I'm ashamed to even admit it.

It means FREEDOM. It means pride and the right to be able to practice free religion, free speech and to live my life as I want.

Freedom, to speak, write, see, read anything I want - as long as it harms no others.

Freedom

Freedom to speak, freedom to vote, freedom to pursue my own lifestyle.

I'm glad to live in a country where I can speak freely, vote freely, and earn a decent living. But I also sometimes worry about how the US is perceived by other countries because of President Bush and his war in Iraq.

It means I should be loyal to my country and appreciate the opportunities and freedoms that I have. I have the right to state my opinion, but have to be aware that others have opinions also. I should embrace being an American, or else leave.

It means that I have every right to know what my tax dollars are being used for and what my government does in my name. As an American, I pride myself on living in a country that respects free speech and tries to offer equal opportunities to all. I am embarrassed to be an American when my government and brothers and sisters are hateful, exclusive, discriminatory (sexist, racist, classist), or violent. As an American, I believe that all people should have the freedom to live without persecution, violence, and war.

Tolerance and diversity with an accepting common future in mind. An American does not judge the patriotism of another American on the merits of agreeing with a specific policy or administration. An American knows that patriotism has nothing to do with religious beliefs.

I feel very fortunate and proud.

To agree to live under the American Constitution and laws, to embrace the English language and American republican, democratic, and capitalist culture, to agree to support the nation in times of crisis, to embrace the founding ideals of the nation.

To be an American is to value freedom for myself and for others.

Freedom

To be a citizen and supporter of America, it's past, present, and future.

I am proud to be an American. It is truly the American dream where we have freedom of choice, to be

able to be prosperous and not be persecuted as other countries treat their people. We can be what we want to be and to be successful.

Greatest privilege God has given me.

This is a complex question - simplistically to agree with the root ideals the US was founded on (Declaration of Independence).

??????????

Free to live and prosper without government telling us what to do or not to do.

xxx

To be part of a great country that practices democracy and other rights and freedoms that other countries do not have.

To be free to work where I want, worship where I want and to associate with anyone I want without fear of reprisals. This brings a responsibility to vote in elections with a knowledge of candidates and issues.

FREEDOM

To be an American is the greatest thing that can happen to a person.

I am a first generation American and I am very proud to be an American.

It means we have the right to be any religion we wish, freedom of speech, happiness, and to live freely.

Being an American means that one should embrace the ways of our land, respect others, do what you can to help other Americans, fight to keep our freedom, and denounce those who wish to bring us harm or force us to change our ways. It means that we do have freedoms that are afforded to us through our constitution and that we should be proud of those who have fought to grant us these freedoms.

Freedom: However, it seems more and more of our freedoms are being taken away by Big Brother.

Right to bear arms

Being American means I can live in freedom, go to any church I want and live life the way God meant it to be.

It means having the freedom to do what you want, so long as it is not destructive or harmful

To be somewhat free to speak and act and be yourself.

To be a citizen of the United States who believes in the US Constitution and the rights guaranteed within it.

Freedom

Taking part in the civic life of the country.

The freedom to express my thoughts without persecution. To have opinions without persecution. To worship without persecution, as long as these things do not harm others.

To have freedoms that most other countries do not have.

Living in the US, free, right to vote, abiding by the laws of the country, state, etc, and accepting all legal immigrants who wish to also be Americans

Freedom.

Options on where to live.

To be free and have certain lawful and inherent rights- to live in a society governed by laws and a democratic way of life- to have the right to choose in certain situations.

To live in America.

Freedom of speech. Freedom to live where I want to here. An economic system that rewards one's efforts. A safe living place with the right to protect and defend one's home and property with whatever means one has at his disposal. Take away my firearms and its revolution time.

To be free from government control in most of one's life.

Freedom

It means being proud of my heritage; being proud of my country and recognizing the true greatness of the U.S.A. It means being free, having free will and free thoughts. It means not bowing to royalty or kissing the hand of politicians of any sort. America is unique in every respect of the word.

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It means a lot of things.

It means freedom of speech, religion and things to do.

Belief in the ideals (no necessarily the reality) of freedom and democracy.

not sure

To follow and obey the standards set forth in the Declaration of Independence, The Bill of Rights and The Constitution. If you cannot follow these then don't come here.

To believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

The freedom of choice. The freedom to have strong opinions and not be afraid to voice them.

Embrace the freedoms and responsibilities provided by law in the Constitution & its Amendments, even if you don't agree with others using those rights for purposes you personally don't support.

To know that we are blessed by God to live in a free nation. To be proud of our Christian heritage. To be proud of the men & women who have fought and are fighting for our freedom & protection.

Having freedom to make your own decisions. If you don't like how things are going you can vote and make a difference.

American means someone that is willing to work for this country, even if it is not their country of origin. It is not necessarily one culture or language because the United States is a melting pot of cultures. American means someone that wants to succeed and has some sort of attachment to the US.

none

I am part of a whole; who we are and what we believe is what creates the nation, and should not be the other way around.

I enjoy the freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, the most important of which I feel is the First Amendment, 'Congress shall make no law regarding an establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances.'

Dedicated to the continual improvement of ourselves, our society, and our public institutions/systems.

Freedom to think, speak, write what I think and believe in.

I believe in this country and how it respects our freedom.

Freedom of speech, religion, pursuit of happiness.

Freedom for myself, my family and friends.

Freedom

The values of democracy and opportunity for all citizens are important to me. Every U.S. citizen should be able to get a decent public education. All citizens should be literate enough to make intelligent decisions in the voting booth. I do NOT see lowering ourselves to the level of torture and other methods currently being used by us around the world to impose our will as being American values.

Someone who believes in FREEDOM! Small government and equal justice for all and special privileges to none.

It means to be good respectful citizens.

Being free, able to speak and do things without fear of persecution.

To be free. To have freedom of thought and freedom from religious persecution. To have this type of freedom, Americans must embrace its diversity, support its government, pay taxes and have free elections.

To be an American means loyalty to your country and proud to be an American.

Uphold the constitution, be free within limits set before, vote, support our political system and leaders.

To be an American it means to be a good law abiding citizen that participates in the political process to better society.

It means responsibility for the country's leaders and actions.

Nothing much

Freedom, security and I am proud of our country

Freedom.

Someone that values freedom and equal justice for everyone

Being an American means taking responsibility for your actions, and recognizing that this is truly a land of opportunity. Every American should utilize that opportunity to the utmost of their ability.

Free to choose.

Means a lot to me. It means that I can be free and do what I can't in other countries.

Freedom to do what you wish, as long as it does not infringe on the legitimate freedom of others. I recognize that some freedoms must be given up to form a social order, and even more must be temporarily given up when the social order is threatened.

Pledge of Allegiance minus 'under God.'

Freedom

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I live to be free. I enjoy having the freedom to choose who I marry and where I work.

Freedom to do what you see as right. To express your opinion yet support your country in good times and bad. If you feel we should change things to suit the country from which you came, then you should stay in your country and not expect us to change to suit your needs. That is why you left your country.

Being proud of our country and what we stand for.

Being an American means that I have the freedom to stand up for what I believe, in without retribution from our government.

Too be respectful to your country by abiding to the laws set forth.

To be free to vote, worship, and live as we want, as long as we stick to rules passed to help all citizens of our country.

To have rights and responsibilities defined in the constitution and federal and state laws.

na

It means you have access to certain freedoms and rights not strictly enforced in other countries, whether their constitution states it or not.

Free to choose my religion, friends and political party.

Duty to protect and defend the Constitution combined with the freedom to speak one's mind without fear of reprisal.

Freedom!

Fortunately I don't know anything different (don't know what it would be like not to be an American)

Be loyal to the president even if you disagree, be loyal to the country, speak and read English at all times outside of your home, respect all nationalities.

To be free to say what I want, to attend whatever church I choose, and to be able to defend myself, my family and my property against anyone who tries to harm them or take them. It means I have the right to vote for whomever I see fit to be President.

It means I am a citizen of and live in the greatest country in the world. I have more freedom of every kind than if I lived in any other country.

Freedom, greed

An American is someone who lives in the United States and believes in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. They can speak English and can at the very least understand our culture and accept it.

Pride in country, duty and loyalty. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

This is where I was born.

Freedom, free to worship, following Constitutional laws.

It means that you agree with and abide by the laws that the majority deem we should be governed by. This does not necessarily include laws decided by corrupted politicians.

Freedom to speak out against MY government, in a system that I appreciate and love. I believe in my constitution so I believe it is not only my right but obligation. In order to keep our freedoms we must value them and appreciate them which may mean speaking out against those in charge. Freedom and obligation to lead and be progressive since we are a (or we WERE) superpower.

Mixed feelings. Decline to go further in-depth.

Just love it

Being able to express myself freely. Being able to live a care free life.

It's all about freedom, and the right to express ones opinions or whatever, and not be punished.

To be an American is something that I thank God for. To be American one should believe in the U.S. constitution. They should be proud of their country and their flag. People who come to America from

other countries should feel the same, should speak English, and adapt to our ways. That does not mean that they have to give up all their customs. If they want to live here then they need to pledge allegiance to our flag and follow our laws not come over here wanting to change our laws to their laws.

To have all the liberties that make us American

Freedom

I was born and raised in America, a country that represents an experiment in the expression of liberty in forms untried in other countries.

To have the freedom of religion, speech, and the pursuit of happiness yet be a responsible citizen and to obey the laws for the benefit of all. To defend my nation, and national ideals from oppressive regimes, such as that of the Islamic nations who seek to destroy us and our way of life!!

Freedom of speech and religion and living in a democratic country.

That you can live in a peaceful nation and have the freedom (within limits) to voice your opinion PEACEFULLY to others and to be able to live comfortably.

To enjoy our constitutionally guaranteed individual freedoms. With that comes the responsibility to protect those freedoms by not abusing them to force one person's opinion(s) on the rest of the US Citizens. We are seeing more of this, (commonly referred to as Political Correctness), such as atheists wanting removing all reference to the word God in our money system, courts, and schools. Freedom does not mean one can change everybody to conform to one person without a consensus of the crowd, so to speak.

Freedoms that even non citizens can enjoy

We have freedom of speech, religion, the right of assembly. Plus we can elect those that we want to see in office

Freedom

Being an American means living in the greatest country in the world. It is made great by all the brave men and women who protect it every day. It is the land of opportunity with all the great colleges. We have freedoms We can say things and do things under the freedom of speech

Freedom to be what you want to be and the opportunity to pursue that dream.

Theoretically, freedom and democracy. Pragmatically, controlled by the elite and corporate interests.

Not, sure

To be free. To have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It means that I am a citizen of the U.S.

To be free and think for my self

It is the greatest country in the world

It means being able to have freedom of thought and religion and being able to go where ever I please without being hassled. I have always loved saying I am from America, until the present Administration brought shame upon us by invading a country that had never threatened the U.S. Much of our clout has been diminished. But many of my friends and relatives have fought in different wars for this country and I believe it is the best country on earth.

To enjoy Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness!

To be loyal to your country but if you feel your country is doing something wrong you should be able to speak up and protest peacefully

I was born here

To be able to criticize the government without being threatened and to be able to think and say whatever I like without worrying that my thoughts won't get me into trouble.

Means I'm part of the greatest and best country on the face of the earth, we help everyone else, give them our money, and ask nothing in return, noble if not a little fiscally foolish.

To believe in our freedoms and respect the fact that we are fortunate enough to be here. To live together with God watching over us and for everyone to be respectful and act as one nation.

I really don't know how to answer that question anymore, I thought I did awhile ago but now I'm not so sure

Uphold the laws of the land and support the constitution.

To be able to earn one's own living, to freely go to school where you want, freedom of religion

Living in a land of: 1) Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, 2) Constitutionally guaranteed rights, 3) Unequaled opportunity, 4) Legal protection of the individual, 5) assumption of innocence in courts 6). Unparalleled generosity of citizenry, 7) Responsibility comes with privilege, 8) Justice is minimum standard, 9) Power of government is limited, 10) Religious freedom, 11) Prosperity results from hard work, 12) Representative government (a Republic), 13) Extensive opportunity to serve, 14) Cultural & ethnic diversity yet one people (E Pluribus Unum), 15) Right to bear arms, 16) Security/protection by government, and 17) To live in a system that is the most noble experiment of democracy in human history.

To be loyal to your country, but also have the right to question your government. For, in order for the government to work, it needs citizens' consent. It also means to always strive to be the best you can be and help your neighbors as well.

It means a commitment to this country. I am proud that we are usually the first on the scene when another country needs help. We have a tradition of assisting others and a belief that we all can (although we sometimes fail) live in tolerance of each other regardless of beliefs.

Give a chance to foreigners who want to come here for the right reasons. Provide rights for those people and for all people born here. Stand up for the little guy; try to spread democracy around the world.

One can have free speech, serve whatever religion, there is mostly liberty and justice for everyone and to live peacefully in these United States of America.

I am FREE

Very very proud to be an American and would live nowhere else

Natural Rights as well as other basic rights

As an American I know I can come and go when I want, live where I want and raise a family with moral values, attend a church or not, all because of the freedoms won by all those serving in the armed forces, past, present and in the future.

Tolerance

To be free from oppressive federal, state or local governments, free to express opinions and beliefs, guardian of freedom and justice for all

An honor that demands respect and allegiance to its English speaking culture, towns, cities, counties, states, and their governments.

That I am free to pursue the direction I wish in religion, job preference and past time.

Everything...freedom, liberty, democratic government and to be able to choose.

By birth or by choice, to be a member of a society which cherishes individual freedom and responsibility balanced with a respect for the rights of others within the nation and respect for the sovereignty of other nations.

It means that you have the right to stand for what you believe and to be who you are.

To be free to choose

Believe in and obey laws our forefathers set up and expect visitors and immigrants from other countries respect those laws

I feel lucky to be an American. I think we should give back to our country some time and effort in payment for the many benefits we enjoy.

Freedom to be what God created us to be. To respect and treat everyone as one would want to be treated. The opportunity to pursue one's dreams.

Making sacrifices for the good of your country

Tolerant of others; open to diversity; democracy

To live in the most free country in the world with rights that those from other countries can only dream of having. It is an honor, a privilege and in some ways a great responsibility.

FREEDOM

It means freedom: of speech, to go about my business without harassment, to be able to express my feelings without fear of retribution. It means not being afraid every day, to have enough to eat and the chance to work towards goals that benefit me, my family and the country.

Capitalism

Freedom.

Having a country like ours - loyalty to the U.S. is extremely important - but some politicians are making it very difficult with new policies they are instituting - there are places I can go in my own country - and no one speaks English! It's awful not being able to communicate in your own country!!!

At this time right now that we have a dictator in the White House I don't know

Freedom!

An accident of birth, primarily, but also an opportunity to participate actively in determining national policies and priorities.

To be free to create my own destiny, practice whatever religion I choose and live/work as my situation allows.

Sometimes I feel powerless being American, because the government is so concerned with things that don't necessarily concern me. I wish I could be proud to be American, but I find myself often being ashamed of our arrogance and foreign relations. I am still glad that I have so many freedoms as an American citizen, but I am unhappy with the government.

Freedom

With all of its faults the U.S.A IS STILL THE BEST!!!

A person who lives in the United States and supports the overall structure of the country

Freedom to speak your opinions and assemble. Personal freedoms.

no comment

We are the best!

To value freedom and equality and to stand up and protect these freedoms and the institutions that hold them in place. With these freedoms also come responsibilities. We must also act responsibly with these freedoms or they can be lost.

Being American to me means that I have complete freedom to make my own decisions and do and say as I please. I greatly appreciate that.

Working hard, holding a job and speaking English.

To have your own human rights and not be told what to do and what to practice in the privacy of your home.

Voting

Living through the start of a slow decay of a powerful country, due to spoiled citizens' ennui and hubris.

It means that I have the freedom that many others do not and I'm very proud to be an American.

Believing in democracy and freedom. Believing in our system of government. Being born here in many cases.

Proud Freedom Democracy

To be free

The ability to choose for myself and to self-govern my life. I have been given the understanding and knowledge to comprehend how fragile, special and necessary that is to the human condition.

To live in the best county in the world.

It means having certain rights to be free to choose your own destiny.

Difficult to say

We fought for our freedoms 300 + years ago, and we're still fighting for them. Historically, we fought against our 'parent' governments because they wanted to take away our freedoms; currently, we need to fight our own government from taking away our basic freedoms as outlined in our Constitution. As citizens of the US ignore our government and its new policies, we have given up our right to freedom of speech; our right to bear arms is slowly being chipped away; our right to provide for our families is being taken away out from under our noses in the form of NAIS (National Animal Identification System) proposed by big business and special interests. How many more freedoms will we give away in the next 50 years? 25? 10?

Freedom!!! Being an American means everything to me. My allegiance to God, and the American flag guarantee my freedom to live as I choose, to worship as I choose, to voice my opinion all without fear of retribution of any kind. I would not care to live anywhere else in the world.

The freedom to express myself without fear of reprisal from the government or religious groups.

It use to mean freedom but it really doesn't anymore with our crooked government

To be able to choose where, when and how I do things, go places and spend the money I make on what I want. To watch out for my neighbors and tell government when I think they are wrong without being put in jail.

Being a citizen of a country that has historically prided itself on being free & independent. Unfortunately, that has been eroded recently!

To be free to voice my opinions in surveys like this without fear of reprisals

Freedom. Speak and understand the English language. Free to speak our individual views. Free to live a person's life as he or she chooses. Free to live each individual life within the laws of the US. (Just to name a few)

To belong to a country that allows citizens/residents to disagree with the National policy. Freedom means one does not have to be of one mind. Freedom means that people can work together to reach compromises.

It means I have the freedom to speak my mind and raise my family in the way I choose without fear of retribution.

To hold to tenants & values established by our forefathers of this nation and UPHOLD & follow the U.S. Constitution, not give way to globalization which threatens the nation and is in opposition to what the Constitution stands for.

Citizen of the United States. Embrace personal freedom and democracy.

It means upholding the concepts laid forth in the constitution

It means having the liberty to form opinions, be educated by well qualified individuals at equally qualified institutions, and voice my opinions on important matters with the hope of effecting change without fear of persecution or exclusion.

Freedom of choice

To respect and obey our laws. To become a productive part of our American society and to teach one's offspring the same. To respect the American flag and to be a registered voter. Volunteer to help less fortunate people in America and around the world.

Freedom to vote as I wish, to be able to work and better myself, and to respect my fellow Americans.

To recognize & exercise the rights as expressed in our Bill Of Rights and Constitution, to participate in our political process actively, to understand, appreciate, and promote the study of our American history & culture. To work & sacrifice, if necessary, to preserve our American life- this is what being American means to me.

To be free to choose the way I live my life, raise my family and practice my faith. It also means that I live in a free economy that allows me and others to succeed financially (legally).

To be an American citizen and to benefit from all that comes with that; army protection, government institutions, paying taxes, being free

It means I am able to live freely by choosing how to practice my religion and where I am educated and I am not told what to wear dress act or how to think.

Living in the greatest country in the world.

Proud of our heritage, and the sacrifices made to have our freedoms.

The freedom to think and act within the law as I see fit in accordance to my beliefs.

Like anybody cares what I think

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The freedoms that we enjoy as Americans are hard won and precious. We could easily loose the freedoms if we misuse or abuse the privileges.

Freedom of speech, religion, and political opinions. Free enterprise

That I have a series of rights and I am free to advance as far as I am able.

Proud

To be open and accepting of all people; to be open and accepting of change, and to protect and support the Constitution of the United States.

Way too much to print here! But, briefly, to BE an American does NOT mean where you were born, only that you have embraced the foundations of our liberties, and be conversant in our history, and culture. In order to assimilate, and BE an American, you must speak the language, obey the laws, and support our way of life.

All my life I have been very proud to be an American and this great country we have. I think other countries understand the American People have NO control over this President we have had for two terms. The last time he was elected I cried all day in mourning for the American People. I was in France just before the Elections and it was interesting to hear the comments from the French saying they didn't want Bush to win. Because of Bush, our Great America is now in shambles and I don't see one person running for President who will be able to bring us back to the way we were. Our answer could have been Mr. Powell.

Don't know

Allegiance to the constitution

Freedom.

To live in the land of the free; free in the most thorough sense of the word: freely speaking, freely worshipping, freely copulating, freely drug-using, free to do anything that doesn't impinge on others' freedoms.

To uphold the U.S. Constitution. To be proud of the laws that keep religion out of our political environment. To live my life on liberty and freedom. To be able to participate in the democratic process using the ballot as the tool of influencing the laws of the land.

Everything!

To be free

no commit

Freedom, justice

To serve my country when called. To vote, to adhere to the principles set forth by our founding fathers. To protect the weak and assist the strong.

I have a freedom of speech. To live, go to school. Lot of things. There are some ways that a BLACK PERSON still doesn't have freedom. They are looked down on but yet they are no better than anyone.

One whose primary allegiance is to the U. S. and one who greatly values personal freedoms.

With the wishy washy way people are calling themselves 'Americans' in this day and age, I'm not really sure any more. Example: African-American, Asian-American, etc. I thought personally I was just an American, living in America and being part of One Unified Country of People, however this seems to no longer apply. So honestly, I no longer know what it means to be an AMERICAN!

It means that in spite of my family having heritage from two foreign countries, I'm an American by birth, and that my alliance to this country is number one! Thus, I'll call myself an American who happens to be black/white/American Indian! Furthermore, American government & businesses should've never allowed for services to be offered in any non-English language!!! Lastly, it means that 'MADE IN THE USA', should matter more to big business that charge Americans a premium price for our goods, but import their manufacturing from other countries--when we used to make our appliances, entertainment

devices, and vehicles here! I don't give a hoot about a global economy. The America I grew up in had people who patronized each other, thus we created the strongest country in the world!!! There's a price to be paid for being an American citizen, and all who choose to do so should be willing to pay that price. Being an American is a privilege that we all should care about (whether we're born here or not)!!!

Freedom

FREEDOM!

n/a

Freedom

I have the right to have a voice in my governance. I have freedom of expression. I have a responsibility to make sure that others in the global community also have these things and that their communities are not exploited for US benefit.

Spiritual, economic and political freedom

Thankful for the opportunity to be able to do whatever you put your mind to and work for.

More freedom than almost any other country

It means that I live in this country, participate in the governmental process, and have a say in the government.

That I have a freedom of choice in my religion and that I learned the language (English) that is the language that has been chosen for many people that we learned in school. That we learn to all get along and learn and live with and accept other people's customs when we are in their homes.

It means that we hold God to be the center of life. It means that we will uphold the laws set forth by our government and speak the same language. It means to be tolerant of others, but only if it doesn't infringe on the beliefs of other people. It means that we are free to decide who will run our country. It means that we all should honor and respect our Flag and our National Anthem. It means being an American above all else, no matter where we come from.

Freedom of choice, religion, speech.

To be part of a diverse grouping of individuals who believe in liberty and the founding documents of the US of A

The ability to say, think, and do what you want to do, within the law.

To be an American is to be loyal to and proud of this country.

Freedom

Under our current administration, it means fear of retaliation from other countries we 'bully' around; fear of living in poverty without the benefits of healthcare. It means living on a paycheck from week to week. It means watching the privileged few live with wealth and security and seeing the majority suffer. It means a government that caters to those who support their own political careers. It means even thinking of doing illegal things to make ends meet. It means to me, basically, uncertainty, for my future and the future of my family.

Freedom to choose religion

To speak American everywhere in public and uphold the US constitution! That also means you respect the US flag!!

Freedom to say and believe as I want to

no opinion

It means being free with whatever I want to do or say.

Pride

Freedom to be who I am

I means that I live here where my forefather fought and died to live in freedom giving us more rights than other countries.

It used to mean that my country was better than other countries in that it established and followed international laws and treaties. It did not torture its enemies. My government used not to tell egregious lies to its people. Now it is more difficult for me to discuss what it means to be an American.

Freedom to choose because of choices others have made but also doing what is right even if you don't want to.

To value ones right to freedom and to be as educated as possible on your rights and freedoms. To show support for all cultures and peoples. Freedom to believe what you want as long as it doesn't harm the masses.

Freedom, choices to do what you want (legally). Independence. Freedom of speech and to do what your country may ask of you.

Freedom

It means to know, and comply with all of our laws. ALL OF THEM. It means we've had to comply, all should comply. Those who refuse to comply should be deported and banned from return. End of story.

To believe in the basic freedoms that this country was founded on

Freedom

Freedom to do almost what I want when I want, if it does not hurt anyone including myself.

It means that I support the Constitution of the United States. I would give my life, if necessary, to keep this country free. Even though I do not agree at times with decisions made by our government, I love this country and am loyal to it.

Freedom

Freedom. Lucky to be in the best country in the world.

Freedom

I am fortunate that I was born in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Of course, not all Americans agree on issues, and we are allowing the government to be our parents rather than parenting our children to know the difference between right and wrong. Our educational system is a disgrace compared to 100 years ago, our society is too promiscuous since the 1960s, our politicians are giving away the country to the illegal immigrants, and the 14% of non-believers have managed to take God out of the foundation of our lives. Still, I don't have to live in a third world country with no decent shelter and sanitation, with dirt caked on my skin, and with flies depositing their eggs in my eyes. I am so proud that our ancestors were men of courage to provide us with a country that gives us the freedom to destroy it!

The ability to do what I want within limits and the ability to worship as I will. As a woman, the ability to be educated and be on a mostly equal place as men.

All that it means to me is that you happen to live in and be a citizen of the United States of America. An American has certain unalienable rights, but is not superior to a person who is not American.

To have the freedom to think, speak, and act as I choose so long as it does not infringe on the rights of others.

It means being a citizen of the United States

Freedom of choice, loyalty and love of country, protecting our heritage and children.

It doesn't really mean anything. I live in a place called America. That's it.

Freedom of employment, travel, ownership of any goods including guns (not necessarily war weapons), speech, most other freedoms. But NOT to abuse those freedoms.

To speak English and believe generally in the country and its constitution.

It means having the freedoms to do whatever it is we want. This is the best governed country in the world.

Pride & freedom

Freedom of speech, thought and acceptance that we are from many cultures, religions and national backgrounds that come together in the proverbial 'melting pot' and become richer in spirit as one.

Freedom to succeed or fail and try again no matter from where one started. Freedom to object and even be objectionable. Freedom to worship any God or no god as one sees fit. Freedom to read whatever one wants. Basically to be free within the constraints of a civil society

We are a free people....sometimes too free. However, as Americans we need to strive to support our country and bring about change for the good.

I'm proud of my country and its values.

on-line porn

Live in America and accept its ideals (which includes the ideal that things can be changed) and dogma.

It means that I live in the greatest country there is. I have freedoms that many other countries do not have and I am very proud to be an American.

Being a member of a democracy which upholds certain inalienable rights and freedoms. Being a member of a nation which has grown and survived through its ability to absorb many different traditions and beliefs.

I can't possibly put into words. To me there is no other country that comes close to ours in all aspects of life. We are a free nation in all legal things. We are free to choose, free to worship how we please, free to live where we want. We have liberties that are taken for granted by many, that no other country has. I have visited and studied many countries and there is no other country I would rather be in.

To have all the rights and duties outlined in the constitution

To be able to speak my mind freely so long as it isn't derogatory towards another individual or group. Being able to actually be a part of the government. Being able to truly be myself without persecution. I just wish other citizens and the government took that constitutional right seriously. Other people have so much more to lose than I do.

Free, proud of your heritage. freedoms not found in other countries

To respect every word in the Constitution and wish to live under the system created by it.

To be someone with free will and thought, and not be completely controlled by the government in place.

Freedom of choice.

Belief in the underlying laws and the principles of the Constitution

Freedom

Keep it simple. Love it or leave it. That doesn't mean that you have to agree with everything.

Freedom is everything

US is very good but not perfect country. We need to support and respect our country. We try too hard to make the world in our image.

To stick to US values.

A person who is loyal to the United States and its laws and are willing to abide by them in a peaceful manner. If they don't agree they go through the process in a legal and responsible manner to alter the law. But loyalty is key.

Freedom from fear that someone will knock down my door and punish me or my family because I/we may not agree with the President's position on a particular subject. Freedom from want, because there is an opportunity for everyone to earn a living if they desire to do so and abide by the laws of our country. Also, how people in this country rush to the aid of those in foreign lands who have needs due to disasters or any other emergency situation. And, because we have a democracy and can choose the people who govern our land (not that I always agree with the choices). For these and many other reasons, I am happy to be an American.

To remember how the country was formed and obey the laws set forth by the founding fathers. Also being a patriot and standing up against other countries for the issues you believe in.

No comment

To participate actively in civic and political duties in a republican government. To make your opinion known through civil protest, and to not blindly follow orders of authority.

An American is someone who believes and is willing to stand up for the reasons our forefathers established this country.

Freedom and responsibility

Free from oppression and loyal to the United States

Tough question. It means that I am free to do anything that is not harmful to other persons. That I become anything I want in the way of occupation. It means that I am a member of the greatest country in this world.

It means everything to be an American

n/a

We have the freedom to disagree and to change things through peaceful participation in our government. We have the right to worship as we choose without fear. Yes this country has its faults but we still have a chance that few others have. GOD BLESS AMERICA but we need to return to God not the legalist rule of ISLAM

Freedom that came as a cost some gave all and all gave some Thank GOD for them!

Everything; I have given the past 37 years to service this great nation.

Freedom and doing whatever necessary to protect those freedoms

Be loyal to your country and be a good citizen but also be allowed to speak up and voice opinions and beliefs without the risk of going to jail.

America is the only country where people are more important than the government. To be an American is to feel, and live in freedom.

Freedom to live how you want to

Sorry I do not think I would need to write a paragraph when I said I would complete this survey. I do not have a lot of extra time right now.

It means that I'm free but that my government is stupid.

Being an American means having the good fortune to live in a country which was created to protect the individual's freedom. It created the model which most of the Western world has followed to some extent.

na

Free

To be free.

Constitutional rights! English should be the first language.

No comment

Everything

True freedom!

To live Free.

Many freedoms, which come with a high price, paid for by our ancestors and current members of the military. Freedom is not free.

Freedom's the first thing that comes to mind, but being an American doesn't mean as much as it used to.

The principles under which the country was founded providing opportunity for anyone with the proper drive and preparation to do virtually anything. Regardless of the attempts of certain congresses and the Supreme court/Federal Judges to convert the country to a Socialist system, it remains the best place to live and raise your family without interference by the 'elected' government. In short it is still the best place in the world. It is well worth the sacrifice of lives by each generation which has answered the call to protect our country and our way of life. God bless the USA (worthy of it or not).

Freedom

To me an American means being a citizen of the US. There is a great diversity within our nation and that is what makes these citizens American. We all share the fundamental views of freedom of expression, right to privacy and freedom of individuality.

Ideally, it would mean that one would have the ability to do whatever it possible to make the US a better place for all who live there and insure that our government allows residents of other countries to do the same for themselves. In reality, it has never been that way.

To be free, to chose what we want to do to with our lives.

To be part of a democracy, meaning every citizen gets a vote, sorry, majority rules. You agree to follow the rules and laws of this country. Enjoying the many freedoms America offers.

You have the freedom to believe what you want to believe, and the freedom to do what you want to do, as long as you don't infringe on others' freedoms

Freedom to live where I want, go where I want Opportunity to grow personally limited only by my personal motivation.

Free and able to voice my opinion

To have the freedom to live life as I please within reason as allowed under the constitution that I defend

and believe in, and to believe in God and his teachings and to worship him without stipulations.

Can't put it into words without a long time of thought

God, guts and guns and FREEDOM

Not a whole lot

To think as I choose, speak as I choose, and live as I choose causing harm to as few as is physically possible without undue pressure or control of the government. To stand and be counted by voting in elections, to support the Constitution (with my life if necessary) against ALL enemies foreign OR DOMESTIC

To have freedom and be able to do anything I dream.

Freedom

To have our freedom of speech, to be able to make our own choices, to live the way we wish to live

To be free

n/a

I believe in the constitution of the US and its guarantees for everyone. It may not be convenient, but it is necessary to insure all our freedoms for the long term. We can work around any terror, any threat, any assault. We must not give up any freedoms as a sacrifice for security.

N/A

To be overly proud, but as a whole no better or no worse than anyone else.

As an American, I believe I enjoy more freedoms than other citizens of the world. I have more control, i.e. responsibility, for my own welfare. I can choose to worship however I please. I can voice my opinions without fear of official reprisals. Being an American is being free but responsible for oneself.

It means to be PARTLY free, peace and order.

You live in the borders of America

It means to participate in the political system of the United States of America.

Freedom, basic security, able to peacefully speak out about differences in opinions.

Freedom

Freedom

Proud of your country and history.

It means having the freedoms that our forefathers set forth, and to have a government for the people, by the people. Not for the corporations, by the corporations. Like it seems to be now.

I am a citizen of the greatest country in the history of the world. I enjoy a very high degree of freedom, liberty, and personal choice that is not available to people in most countries.

I'm proud to be an American.

Opportunity to grow; physically, mentally and spiritually to my full potential. A free market place of ideas as well as a capitalist economic system. The will of the majority (democracy) while protecting minorities. A place where equal opportunity does not mean equal outcomes. Yes, corruption can flourish in the U.S.A. but we can also root out that corruption from time to time because of a free press and those citizens willing to take a stand. Freedom of conscience while subscribing to the rule of law.

Understanding that democratic behavior is that which preserves the democracy; liberty is not license.

To be free to read and say on email and phone anything you want without fear of Big Brother listening, and a place where everyone can be healthy with health care for all citizens.

To be free

Being an American is being able to support my family with little interference from government. It is worshipping as I want without fear of being singled out because of it. It is having the privilege of voting on a vast variety of things including those that we think can best represent us. America is about opportunity to better ones life style. America is service.

I am free to make the choices that are right for me without persecution or prejudice.

We are a proud country. We should embrace all our differences but we need to also have a common language

Freedom

Freedom to do for yourself.

That I have the freedom to elect officials and am protected by the laws of the land

I get to serve in war when I'm 18 but I can't drink until I am 21.

At least we still have most of our freedoms...

x

Being able to vote, freedom of speech, freedom of religion

Freedom to live and speak your mind

Proud of my heritage and the principals that this country is built upon, but I think we as a nation are letting them bit by bit being taken away from us by our so called 'leaders' and we as a nation should not sit idle anymore !!!!

It means I'm free to make choices

It's the best country there is!!

To be able to debate issues and give opinions without being incarcerated.

Freedom

That I have the freedom to enjoy the godly principles on which this country was founded. It should mean freedom from the fear of terrorists/extremists invading this country, although that freedom seems to be dwindling more and more. It means accepting people, whatever their beliefs, but not having to give up my personal or religious beliefs just because of a few who don't agree with my beliefs.

Freedom to voice my opinions, practice the religion of my choice, to work at a place of my choosing, to bear arms, to feel relatively safe in my home and my town, to have the right to vote for the candidate(s) of my choice.

To uphold the foundings of the country, including the constitution and other laws.

It means that you are proud of your country and that you support it when it needs support despite whether you agree with all of the country's policies or not.

I am free

To be free

Generally home of the free

Freedom of speech

To be an American means embracing the Judeo-Christian values this country was founded on. It also means defending it from all attacks/attackers.

To believe in American Values and take pride in their country

Being free to express my opinions and not worry that the government might punish me for those beliefs. However, the importance of the separation of church and state is paramount. We don't need Muslims who want to push their ideals on us or our government.

Supporting the American Constitution and Flag and respecting the ideals of our Founding Fathers

Supporting your country

Freedom, free will

To live free

Very lucky

Vote, speak my opinion.

It means nothing to me anymore. If you had asked 10 years ago, I could have listed off many reasons, freedom being one. But we no longer have freedom in this country that we had 10 years ago.

To protect my country to provide the best for it

I have the freedom to think, feel and act the way I choose without recourse, as long as my choices don't directly encroach on the freedom of another.

Freedom of choice of religion, school, work, housing, speech, and/or to do as one pleases when one pleases. You can be all you want to be. Just apply yourself and go after it.

FREEDOM

Freedom

It means watching as people in positions of power erode the freedoms that were established with the Bill of Rights. It means being in the minority as a person who trusts science more than religion, or is even informed about science at all. It means that, according to the intentions of our founders, anyone should be able to hold and voice any opinion without being punished by law, even if I disagree with it. If I disagree with their opinion, it is my right to ridicule it. I am a strong and staunch supporter of the first amendment and everything it stands for.

To allow everyone to think for themselves, make their own choices for their own lives without government interference.

Unfortunately, I have mixed feelings about that right now. On the one hand, I am very proud of this nation and all of the good things we have accomplished, the freedoms we enjoy, and the rights we treasure. On the other hand, I feel that being an American at this stage in history, is a bit shameful. We have trampled so much of the constitution and we have made a mess of our judicial system, our economic system, and our education system. I sometimes wonder if we can ever be great again. To be an American right now in this day and age, is to be like an actor doing an improvisation: You're just making it up as you go along, and you have no idea how or where it will end.

Not sure

That I have the freedoms of movement, speech, and thought.

That you have a right to speak your mind without censure, also there are responsibilities, i.e. allegiance to the US and uphold our constitutions and flag

Very Important

The ability to worship God freely

To be wild and crazy & live another day!

Freedom, right to worship, right to bear arms, freedom of speech, free will

To be willing to fight what you believe is right.

Being proud of my country, and having freedom

Freedom, but it's definitely not free!!!

Land of the free & home of the brave

It means nothing to me.

LOYALTY --- AND HONOR OF WHICH THE ISLAMIS HAVE NONE...

To be loyal and honoring to both God and Country.

It's hard to put into words, but the main thing is this country offers so much to those that are willing to work for it. The freedoms to speak and believe whatever we want.

Freedom of rights, equality, fair justice and politics, by the constitution and the bill of rights.

One how is devoted to the rights and beliefs of the United states of America

To enjoy the freedoms embodied in our Constitution and its Amendments.

Freedom; paid for with the blood of our nation's men and women since our country's inception. The right to free speech, unless of course it offends those who oppose the United States; then it's not politically correct.

To be free to make personal choices.

I'm really not sure

To be free except for certain restrictions for health and security

Freedom of choice, freedom of speech, protection of basic human rights

A country where by the constitution we are guaranteed the freedom to learn from our mistakes while not allowing someone to make those mistakes for us.

Freedom

All of the Freedoms in every act of our lives.

I am free. I am free to speak my mind (unless you are a celebrity). I am free to practice my religion. I am free to become involved in politics or not. I can live my life without fear of authority. I am very lucky to be an American citizen.

Love your country

Live well and help others to live well

Freedom, with responsibility. To be the best member of this great country you can.

To be free to be who you are and what you believe.

to be free and have the rights to choose and act on issues that are important to me and to be able to be freely heard without harm

To have freedom

Free to be my own person

I'm proud to be an American; to serve this country is a honor.

Support the American economics by buying American. Honor the flag and all it stands for.

To have personal freedom and to be able to pursue whatever I want in life.

To be free

Freedom to do what I want

To be free to choose religion and to believe in what I feel

To be proud of America and believe in its ideals

It means I have the constitution and the bill of rights to govern me.

Freedom of thought and deed.

To embrace that anyone here is American as long as they are not trying to harm others

FREEDOM, Freedom of religion, freedom of choice, speak. But also, to respect other. I am very proud to be an American. I have nothing against others' nationalities since my ancestors can from other countries, but once they got here they learned to speak the same language and joined the same customs as others here. If I was to go to another country, including on vacation, I would expect to learn the language of that country as well. Our forefathers had the wisdom and foresight to trust God to help them pave the way for this great nation. FREEDOM where would we be without it? For God, for country and for home.

To be an American is not an ethnic background but a nationality. It differs greatly in a variety of aspects. There is such thing as American culture, but American culture is derived from the combination of other ethnic cultures. To be an American means that one can be of any ethnic background and differ in culture, as long as they take ownership of their nation.

Freedom

I am proud to be an American Everybody can have a good life in America

To live in a free country that is deeply troubled.

To be an American is to be a member of the world community. We were founded by many different nationalities, and we should remain welcoming towards all others who wish to pursue a life in America.

Being an American means that I have the freedom to chose the way I want to live within the boundaries of the law, and to let others have their own choice.

It is a gift from God. We are definitely not perfect. We allow the killing of unborn children, but we are allowed to protest and work for a change. This is not possible in all countries. We have more resources and freedoms than most.

I can have different opinions and speak about them, write about them and talk to others without being arrested. I can vote and feel that I have a say about the people we elect to office. I have the freedom to do these things because I am an American.

FREEDOM!!!!

Free

I am free and I have many rights that protect me. That I am a part of a country that will fight for my protection and equality. It means I am able to choose the way I want my future, and how much money I want to make. It is the land of opportunity.

Being American is everything to me. As a woman, I'm glad that I reside here and this is where my roots begin. If I were not American my world would not be the same.

Everything

To be able to have the freedom to do or say what I want as long as I do not violate any laws. Go where I want, just to be free to do as I want

That I'm free to make my own choices in life without fear of political pressure. To worship as I am called.

To believe and hold dear, the fundamental values that our founding fathers held dear and believed

Freedom!!!!

Freedom

It is a privilege and a responsibility. We should not take either lightly. We should expect our citizens to be loyal to our country.

It is a privilege and loyalty is of utmost importance. I feel every business and home in our country should display a flag for the privilege of doing business and living here.

Freedom and opportunity to fail or to succeed by choices

To be free to express my opinions

Freedom to think and speak without government approval

That I am free to practice the religion of my choice and speak my mind without fear of retribution from the government.

I was born here; America is like family. Sometimes I'm proud, sometimes disappointed, but I love the idea of democracy and try to be a good citizen.

Freedom to make choices.

The freedom of speech along with all my other freedoms which are too easy to take for granted. Born in America, just plain good luck

Shame and embarrassment that we are letting the opinions of others overrule the laws of this country. People that are not citizens are given more rights and benefits than those of us that were born here. It's time to tell the illegals to go home and fix their own country and quit trying to change ours.

The ability to have freedom

Freedom

In order to enjoy the benefits of being a citizen, we must take up the responsibilities and duties of citizenship--to uphold the constitution, to vote and to be participate in the civic life of communities.

America to me represents freedom. For the most part, we have the freedom to choose and the freedom to speak our opinions. We can choose what religion to be, and if we don't agree with something, we have the freedom to speak up and say so. For decades, America has been the country others have fled to, because of our freedom. They embraced the American culture, and learned the

language and the laws. Now, however, they are demanding that we learn theirs, when they are coming to our country, and that is something that I neither understand, nor believe is right.

Freedom

Freedom

To be a proud supporter of our country and of the men and women in the military that defend our freedom.

To be part of the greatest nation ever in the world.

fdfdf

To be able to live as well as your income will allow you, but our President is making sure that only the wealthy are able to do this

To be truly free and to believe as I see fit in my God and my country

It is the best country in the world. We have more freedoms than anyone else.

To be free

Support our country no matter what

Freedom

The right to be free

To live in the land of the free and home of the brave

Free

I am free to have an express my own opinion, access to the best education and healthcare system in the world, and I can make my own opportunities.

Too hard to put into words

That the rich steal from the poor and keep for themselves

Freedom

Being able to enjoy our freedoms.

Being a citizen of a democracy.

To be proud of your country, flag and rights, to be honored to have education, freedom and liberty.

that you have the freedom to raise your family however you want in regards to culture, ethnicity, values, customs, etc.

The right to choose what I do, what I say, where I go, pray or not pray where I want. Our Constitution grants many rights and privileges to the individual. As an American, I must also vote and keep myself informed as to what is happening in local government, federal government and foreign affairs.

Being able to travel 3,500 miles and never be stopped unless I have a tail light out. Being able to express my opinion without fear of retribution.

To speak English and assimilate into American culture and to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

To have freedoms and other things.

Everything

Stand up and be proud

To feel safer here than anywhere else. I'm proud to be an American.

FREEDOM

To live in a society that is actually a society. Meaning that All of our citizens should work together toward a happy and united America.

It's a privilege to be an American and to live in this country. We pay dearly for this right provided by our ancestors and veterans. We must hold on to the values which make this a strong country.

To be free

Don't know any better.

Opportunities provided to us as Americans, through our political beliefs and system of economics...democracy and capitalism. A strong distrust and fear of powerful, effective governments and any type of fundamentalism.

I am free to worship as I please. I am allowed to voice my opinion and for the most part, can do what I wish, as long as I follow the law

That I am one of the privileged few in this world.

To be free to do what you want

I am a United States citizen. The constitution says "we the people of the United States". I was in the U.S. Navy, not the American Navy.

decline to answer

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

Freedom to say what I want.

To be different. I, as an immigrant from Germany, feel that this nation is a melting pot of cultures unlike anywhere else in the world.

It means that my ancestors fought hard to establish a country to best serve our citizens!! I have had many generations of my family in the U.S. Military and still do!! Including 2 of my own sons and 2 brothers!! Plus, my deceased husband was MIA for 6 months in 1944, as a B-17 Pilot shot down over Holland.

Freedom and the ability to elect the leaders of this country. Being able to get a good education especially since I am a female.

The freedom to be anything I choose, even if it's apathetic, without fear of recrimination.

A free citizen, able to express who runs our country and how without consequence to civil rights. Also to live without boundaries placed on expression and personal constitution.

It means that we have freedoms and the responsibility to protect them from destruction. Citizens should be safe from harm and should exercise rights we have inherited. We should never lose sight of what our country was founded on and be able to practice our religion and follow our dreams for a better life.

Freedom of choice and opportunities to succeed

My grandparents arrived in this country and came through Ellis Island. When they came to this country they had to have someone who could be sure they had a home and a job. We also had other relatives immigrate to this country and the same rules applied. So what has changed since the early 1920's? If

farmers and corporations are using these workers it is not right. I worked at a railroad during Regan's administration and we had to file a report with the government as to the diversity of our company.

Freedom when it doesn't affect others' rights

Diverse

Well, strictly speaking an American is a citizen of some nation in North, South or Central America, but I understand you to mean a citizen of the United States of America only. Therefore ... Someone who is a citizen, believes in and upholds the Constitution, participates in our republic (erroneously labeled a democracy) -- for the people and by the people --, and strives to improve the world (in order to form a more perfect union does not even suggest we are as good as we can be, just that it will be better than what we had before). There is no one American culture ... Georgia is not New York is not Montana is not California ... from food to accent to customs, etc., so an American must be tolerant of other cultures. An American may retain customs from the culture of another nation that they brought with them as long as said custom(s) does not violate the constitution or other laws, or impinge or negate the rights of others -- this practice has greatly enriched the US from food to music to ideas. However, they should be multi-cultural; merging their culture with the established customs. The same holds true for moving from one area of the US to another. Otherwise the person(s) are merely invaders occupying territory.

Freedom

Freedom to a certain extent, social security.

Freedom

Probably the single most important thing to be thankful for

It is freedom of religion and you have great opportunities to excel in education/careers etc.

It's my heritage

To understand and live in a way that makes my nation proud of me. I should have a say in my government and believe and protect my country.

An individual who has his/her own beliefs and values while at the same time respecting the beliefs and values of others

To be free, go to the church we want to go to, speak our mind (and not get in trouble), unless it is terroristic. To many good things to mention

To be able to do as I please within the laws of the country and say what I want and to be in charge of my own future.

It means hoping for a better tomorrow, where our elected representatives remember they are public servants and our Constitution is restored.

It is a responsibility to participate in the political process and to never take our freedoms for granted

Being American is to be educated enough in all aspects of politics, science, and the arts to be able to have an informed opinion of anything which comes up in the course of life.

To be born in the United States

Life, liberty and happiness

freedom of religion, speech,

Freedom

Everything

Freedoms that other countries do not have

I could live in no better place

?????

It means to me that we have less than other countries because our own country is too busy imposing democracy on other countries to take care of their own people. We over pay for taxes, health care and many other things and get nothing out of it.

Someone who is born on the soil of the country and calls it their home.

This is the country I was born and raised. I am proud to live in a country where men and women are equal and where we are free to be who we are, believe in the religion we choose, live where we want to live and the freedom to express our views.

I have freedom to speak out against my government. Freedom of press and religion. I also have duties to vote, be active in my community and be aware of what is going on, not only in the U.S., but worldwide.

Being loyal, free to do what I want live where and how I want to live, free to speak my mind, free to bear arms and protect my family and property

Freedom and liberty

It means being able to feel like I have the right as well as the purpose to help my family and fellow Americans to better ourselves. That's the greatest feeling!!

Currently, it means paying taxes to support other countries and illegal immigrants. It also means having the freedoms our forefathers and all of those serving in the armed forces have fought for. Being able to vote in public elections. Freedom to worship God (which is slowly being taken away from us). I wouldn't want to live anywhere else, but this country needs some serious help.

Freedom

Everything

Enjoy freedom and be able to speak freely.

Freedom of speech and to vote without retaliation. Freedom to worship the way you want to.

It means that I live in a country that assures me certain freedoms, for which I have the responsibility of helping the system work by protecting it and defending it from those who would do away with it.

Having freedoms that are denied to others, the opportunity to live in a country where you can go to school and work and be successful

To be free to do what I ever I want to do, whenever I feel like doing it.

It means that I live in a country that should be governed by the people.

PROUD

Freedom to live in a manner you choose making choices for oneself and one's family which do not bring harm to others.

It is our right to live and breathe America.

Being an American is being a model citizen representing democracy and freedom to the world

It means the right to freedom.

Pride, freedom, opportunity

I am most blessed by God to have been born in the USA

Loyalty to the USA

You should be thankful that you are an American.

It means that we live in the greatest country and that we enjoy a freedom found nowhere else in the world.

Freedom, opportunity, safety

To be a small part of a wonderful nation, with the freedoms allowed by our constitution.

It's the greatest thing in life

It is an honor and a privilege to be an American. We have so much to be thankful for. We should respect follow all rules governing this country and enjoy our American heritage. I am proud to be a citizen

Too vague to answer

Freedom to be what I want to be, freedom to try what I want, freedom to be who I want to be, as long as I do not interfere with anyone else's freedom.

To me, being American is a very broad term. Canadians are Americans. Brazilians are Americans. Mexicans are Americans. When citizens of the United States travel overseas to foreign countries and tell them they are Americans, the citizens of the foreign countries actually find it amusing. U.S. citizens are not the only Americans, there are other citizens that inhabit North, Central, and South Americas. Now, rephrasing the question to what it means to be a U.S. citizen, I feel that becoming a U.S. citizen, either by immigration or birth, bestows a responsibility of maintaining the beliefs, values, and ideologies that so many have worked hard to establish, or have died to protect. Also included in my definition are: helping your fellow neighbor when they are in need, doing civic duties and following laws, and respecting the ideas and customs of your neighbor so as their customs and ideas do not pose a threat to your rights or society itself. Those people that do want to undermine our society, or cause chaos through bogus claims of conspiracies, should pack their things and move to a country that would love to have another rebel amongst their crowd. Leave peace in our society, and everyone theoretically should be happy. Except for those few that thrive on creating tensions.

To believe in the American way of life and the American politics and to understand our values along with the rules of our country.

It means that I am free to a great extent, though not as free as several years ago. Freedoms are slowly being eroded in this country. It also means that I have a duty to support this country when maligned by others, and to vote and do my best to keep the politicians that supposedly serve us in line, and to get rid of those (by voting them out) who entangle us in hopeless wars, who are interested only in promoting their own desires. I am a veteran and proud to be one. I love my country dearly, even though it has become something less than it should be through poor management, and shady, greedy dealings.

Treasuring the freedoms that exist here, and remembering that freedom comes with a price.

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Accepting the freedoms and the responsibilities expected of the citizens of the country. This includes being willing to take responsibility for your own actions, not blaming your misbehavior on someone else or on the system.

Freedom. Equality. Rights.

Freedom

To have countless freedoms like freedom of religion. I would love to serve my country in the military but can't due to medical problems.

Whereas I am probably safe from the rest of the world, I am not free from its system of government which does not function efficiently or justly. Major reform is needed.

Freedom, responsibility, and duty to speak out and make sure our government does not do more than it was designed to do. Like don't allow our president to become a tyrant and send our children off to fight his own personal war. Murdering people for oil. that's what it's all about. nothing else.

Bill of right and constitution says most all of it

Pride of my country and what it stands for

It means that I am a citizen of the greatest nation on earth, and I should be grateful for the rights and liberties that I enjoy. I should make every effort to participate in government (by voting), follow all laws and teach my children their duties and rights as citizens of this country. I should show respect to the flag of our country, as well as its soldiers, elected officials, and other citizens.

Believe in, support, defend, and follow the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

To me, I feel to be an American is to abide by the Ten Commandments and follow the Judeo/Christian virtues set in place by our founding for-fathers. Love, peace, and charity. Acting in a way that Jesus did, not doing whatever you want simply because it makes you 'happy,' but living a life that sets a very proper example to the upcoming youth, that they too may be honorable, charitable, loving, and compassionate toward differences. Not pointing fingers at someone doing something that you don't believe in, but 'live and let live.' If other religions have a problem with the examples that Jesus taught, then they can stay where they are.

To be free and independent, follow the American culture and traditions

Freedom of choice

Not as much as it once did. At one time I was proud to be an American but this current band of liars, thieves and con-men running the country have definitely changed that. With all that the Bush administration has done, I now hang my head and only whisper that I'm an American.

Freedom

I neither have the time nor the room on this media to explain this to you.

Freedom

to not have to worry about dying every 3 seconds.

Free

To live in its culture, support its laws, defend it against all enemies

I do not have the time to tell you what it means to be an American but I will try and sum it up. Pride, loyalty, The freedoms to all of the things in the constitutions, Ability to make your life whatever you wish it to be as long as you are not afraid to use a little bit of elbow grease, The right to protect yourself, to have institutions to help achieve goals, To forgive those that have truly repented. I could literally go on for hours about what it means to be to be an American.

Supporting the constitution as was originally drawn up. If you intend to be American, you should speak English and hold a job or be self supporting and pay taxes.

Freedom to do and/or achieve whatever I want to, and am capable of, doing and/or achieving.

To be an American citizen

Love thy country

Freedom of religion.

Honestly? I have no idea. I don't believe in most of the crap that we're fighting for. I should probably move to Canada.

Freedom. Have choices. Be able to choose the people to run this country. There are a lot of reasons.

Don't know what to say

An American is a person who resides in this country and has legal citizenship (also includes permanent residency).

no response

To be open to new ideas, faiths, backgrounds, and freedom of all mentioned.

To be both supportive, and critical of American law, policy, and democratic system.

To be able to live with my need to be free and respected by my past endeavors with equality and have my rights heard by our leaders and not dictated by a legal court system on what support that I should be getting. This is the most disgraceful state that has corrupted my future welfare and I intend to reveal someday the misfits of this state and expose the sadness that they created in my life. I feel that I am not living as I deserved to live and certainly earned my right as a human being born in America and that should have never been put down on a low income at my age. American has changed since I grew up and it is a disgrace with the low-life politicians who are only interested in making money and not helping those who have been put down by our disgraceful Judges and lawyers who are allowed to put down other innocent lives. It is not American to do what they did to my children and self. And, so help me God I will find a way to bring those evil people to be known in this country before the world from the facts that I have kept over the past years and will never forgive them or forget what they did to my life and my two children.

The freedom we have

To have been born in the U.S. or dependencies. Or to choose to live in the U.S. or dependencies and to associate with the core precepts of American society and law.

I was born an American so there for I am an American. It means that i enjoy the freedom that being an American afford. I am American I think that speaks for itself.

It means everything to me. It means I have privileges provided by the laws of our country and are protected under these privileges as long as I abide by the laws.

To me being an American means everything. I have the rights to have my own beliefs and to live my life the way I choose, within the confines of the constitution.

N/A

My family homesteaded Michigan because they were farmers and land was very expensive in Germany and Holland. Made a new beginning in the United States in the 1700s.

It means living in a nation of liberty and we must fight to maintain our culture and way of life.

I get to vote, which might affect governance, if the vote gets counted, which it may not.

Freedom

Not sure

It means having freedom, opportunity, and justice. To have the chance to create and live your own dreams without fear of oppression. To be able live in a country that is founded on Christian morals and principles, I am proud of that. Being an American gives me the opportunity to help others, foreign and domestic.

no comment

I feel honored to have been born in the USA

To help each other out and embrace our country

To reside, pay taxes and to follow the laws

To be any thing I want to be

Tolerance, acceptance, giving a helping hand to those in need, compassion, understanding, liberty, freedom, pride, the realization that we are a nation of immigrants and we should not only allow or permit but encourage those from other lands to keep their own culture in addition to learning what they need to in order to be a productive member of our society.

Freedom from tyranny and the ability to vote for those laws and representatives that I want

I opt not to answer.

Free thinking, individualistic, fortunate

Having the freedom to do as I please, within the limits.

The privilege of living in a country that backs individuality, creativity, and the pursuit of the 'American Dream

Free

Freedom

Being an American allows me to pursue my dreams regardless of my gender.

Born, raised here, & go by American law

To be free

To accept and support the basic tenets of our country, among which are that all humans have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, without fear of persecution of any kind based on one's religion, skin color, sexual preference, or any other delineation.

I have absolutely no idea.

Being yourself, yet adhering to the laws of the U.S.

Having more freedoms than of people in other countries, to say, do, and go anywhere we please without fear of reprisal.

I have a free, good life with many opportunities

I am an American because I was born here but while I have visited many other countries I am always glad to be safely back.

Freedom of choice

Very proud

Proud and free

It means you were born in the US.

Freedom

As a citizen of my country I believe it is my duty to obey its laws. To try to be a worthy individual, a positive example and a productive and responsible citizen. To be informed and concerned about our nations affairs, and to voice my beliefs constructively. To practice diligently, an attitude of brotherly love and hold no hatred against anyone. And when one of my brothers makes a mistake be he peasant or a president I will try to treat him as I would want to be treated, with compassion and understanding. And I will continue to be proud to pay taxes for the opportunity to live in the greatest nation in the world a nation born out of faith in God and sustained only if that faith and support of the American people remain strong. In the USA I am free to think as I choose right or wrong, win or lose. Where my only limitation is me. It's where I can be whatever I can be. I am proud to be an American and support our troops yet I feel this war was not necessary and the loss of life that continues is wrong.

Being an American means accepting the Constitution as law, embracing its culture without forgetting others. It's about being tolerant of others, yet proud and loyal to your fellow Americans first. It's about setting an example for others to follow and creating a place that is magical, so as to draw others to this great nation. Being an American is a serious blessing, not to be taken for granted or taken advantage of. Being an American also means that in times of war, conflict, and strife, it is bonded to you, like your family, and it is something you love and cherish, even during its bad times. This is not to say that one should agree with the occasional mistakes that America might make, but rather, that person, out of love should try to work to correct any of those mistakes. America is a great place, abundant in civil rights and opportunity that one should be ecstatic to be here.

To live free

Proud, Free

Being an American means that I can enjoy freedoms, opportunities and privileges some other countries do not have. We have a uniqueness which seems to be unraveling due to the influx of immigrants and who are trying to take away our language, values and cultures and replace with theirs.

Everything

I've been around the world twice, and been involved in 2 major conflicts. I have seen firsthand what other countries are like and consider myself fortunate to be living in America. I am proud of my country as well as its flag, and I believe religion was an important part of the founding of our country.

It means that I have the freedom to live my life the way I want to, within appropriate boundaries, and that I live in the greatest nation in the world!

Freedom and responsibility

That I am a person with the freedom to make my own decisions on many issues without my government prosecuting me.

To be a member of the greatest community ever on the face of the earth. That's why all people want to move here.

America is the most wonderful county in the world; however, we are becoming too concerned that we do not offend anyone. The principles of our founding fathers are going by the wayside. It's getting so ridiculous that our laws are being changed so God is taken out of everything. It's no longer ok to say Merry Christmas, it's happy holidays. I believe in freedom for all but let's face it, it was with the help of God that our county was founded.

Having a right to make my own choices

It DID mean prayer in schools, Christmas, etc. A country founded on and with a belief and pride in that belief in God. Now I am not sure what it means to be an American. Politicians are corrupt, morality is

extremely low, God is left out of everything and I think about wanting to leave this country and move somewhere else to see my grandchildren grow where there are more values and better education. I am in education and know how far we have sunk.

cVZ

Being FREE to enjoy your life your way.

To have a higher standard, to be better, to lead!!

The ability to take this poll

Everything

It means you have all the opportunities in the world to succeed - you just have to try.

Freedom

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I have freedom and opportunity to become whatever I want, have a say in how the government is run through my vote. Too many others to list. I feel safe most of the time although that is becoming less sure.

Very proud

Freedom to do as I please (within the limits of the laws of our country). The chance to choose and pray my religious beliefs. Honor my flag, my country, and my fellow man. To choose a profession suitable to me and my family.

To believe in God, country, family, and freedom.

This country has been very good to me. Now I have the responsibility to give back to my country.

na

Know English and care about the country.

It means everything

Being a true American means to believe in the values of our Constitution and to protect our country's integrity. We formed the United States to escape tyranny. Why should we open our arms to it now? This is a well developed country now, but we are in the process of becoming a third world country because we don't want to offend anti-Americans. You can be sure that their respective countries are not changing their laws and beliefs to make me feel good about myself or allow me to express my religious zeal and opinions over there. This is the United States of America not the United areas of the world. Didn't mean to rant, but this is my country. Actually, yes I did mean to rant. Thanks for the opportunity.

Luck of the draw

Although I find some of these beliefs to be eroding, I think being American is having the right to speak what I believe, move freely about the country, not have the government watching what I do without my knowledge and having the right to better myself financially.

Freedom and liberty

I can vote in elections and worship my faith without fear of government interference

Freedom to choose

The best

Freedom

I believe that as an American I stand with all other Americans to support this country and its leaders. However, being an American gives me the opportunity to change things that don't work for the better of the MAJORITY - not the minority. That does not mean ignoring the minority, but it does mean that we have the opportunity to care for all people in our country. I feel that I am blessed to have been born here, and would die for this country.

Freedom and the right to PURSUE happiness

I am honored

'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness'. I couldn't be prouder.

Freedom Being able to disagree with issues without fearing death. Feeling secure from most harm for family and myself. Times can be tough but still the best there is.

To be an American is to live in a country where I have personal liberty. This liberty has been purchased by those who have been willing to fight for it. Personal freedom can be and should be limited only when it infringes on the rights of others or causes detriment to the U.S. as a whole.

Pride, loyalty. Protectors to so many other countries that kill too many Americans to protect other countries that won't fight for themselves.

To live in America.

Everything. I am proud to be an American

Having the freedom to think the way I want to, to be an individual, to choose.

I'm proud of my heritage and my freedom. I love America and all the people that fight for our freedom.

I recognize that, as a citizen of the United States of America, I am among the most fortunate of peoples; that the rights recognized and codified by the United States Constitution are what allow me my personal liberties; that it is my responsibility to keep the Constitution a living document as, I believe, the founders intended; that my actions should be representative of the best that our history, traditions, and law, as derived from the U.S. Constitution and English Common Law, has produced.

Support and belief in our country only.

To be a voting citizen. To be proud of our country but realize that it can be improved/changed if need be.

I have advantages that people do not have in other countries.

A lot less than it did ten years ago. Being American used to mean that I was from a country that stands for justice and truth. Now it seems to stand for money, and then only for some people - the ones who already have a lot. I'm ashamed some times of how belligerent and narrow-minded our country has become.

To be free and to speak our mind without being in a dictatorship.

I am free and hopefully a strong supporter of my country's policies or will vote to try to change those that I do not feel are for the freedom of all who support our country

Freedom

To be born in the United States, SPEAK ENGLISH,

I know my freedom isn't free. I must participate by voting and supporting my country. The things I take for granted - I feel safe in my home, mail that gets delivered in a timely manner, orderly transition of power - e.g. Nixon's resignation - aren't enjoyed by citizens of other countries.

Being a citizen

I am proud to be an American - it means freedom to do what I want, think what I want and say what I want. In a word - it's our freedom that is important

Freedom to an extent

It means to be whoever you truly feel you are. The uniqueness of Americans is that they are not just a single group of people with one culture, but instead many different groups with many different cultures.

Well right now, it is kind of embarrassing with Bush as our president, but hopefully in 2008 Hilary Clinton will be president and we can once again hold our heads up high. right now we are in a rather sad state in this country.

Freedom to choose my dreams and follow those which I want. Freedom to speak and / or write anything I wish. Listen and reading are also a choice for what you want to listen to and read. Currently, I believe media has done a lot of damage to this country; they are in no way impartial. If you watch 'local news' you cannot even contact them to cover a story, they are above that and do not respond to persons with story ideas. On politics, they always focus on negative and bring discrimination into the facts.

I am a naturalized citizen and had opportunities that I probably would not have had in Europe to earn my own living. However, we could learn from them as far as medical availability, pensions, tolerance and common courtesy/manners are concerned.

It means living in a multi-cultural society where different ideas, religions, etc. can be debated and tolerated. However, as much as I believe that I also believe there should absolute total separation of church (temple, mosque) and state. I also believe there should be restraints put on capitalist enterprises that use lobbyist to undermine our constitution.

They don't belong here

To me it means that I live in the United States and learn to tolerate those that also live in the United States, while upholding certain social obligations and expectations.

It means a great deal! Our freedoms bestowed upon us by our founding fathers is what being an American is all about. The Bill of Rights!!

So far, to be able to say whatever I please

To be a member of the only country founded on an ideal: the dignity and equality of man, and his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Naturally, being humans, we don't always uphold these principles fully - I'm under no illusion that our government is perfect. But we American citizens have truly been blessed to live here.

Proud to be free, be able to work at a job, not have to worry about terrorists shooting people on the street, not have to worry about terrorists coming into my home and shooting me and my family for no reason. Being able to choose what we believe in. Not being forced into certain religions. Being able to wear what kind of clothes we choose, flying our American Flag in honor of our fellow troops. Being able to walk the streets without being shot at, being able to shop whenever we want to.

Free Speech,

Freedom to worship as we see fit and freedom to do as we please within the law

To have the freedom to do as we want and worship as we want.

n/a

To be an American has limitless opportunities. Anything you dream of becoming you can achieve in America.

It means freedom, to choose my religion, my profession, my family, where I live and how I live. While I think immigrants from other nations bring education about other cultures, if they want to make America their permanent home, why shouldn't they be able to speak and read English.

To be an American is a privilege not a right. We must follow our country's law and regulations and uphold our civic duty to do so

To support the ideals of the Constitution.

To earn a legitimate living. Not live in fear, practice my own religion

To have the freedoms that anyone else in America has

To be prepared to protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and to regularly participate in the political process.

The freedom to do what I want as long as I don't interfere with someone else's freedom.

Free to do and almost anything I want as long as it will not infringe or curtail the rights of anyone else

To embrace freedom and have tolerance for others.

It means I accept that other people have customs & beliefs different than my own but we can accept & live together as friends despite these differences.

Freedom & rights are so much more acceptable & embraced in the US. That is what makes us different
Freedom

It means independence, freedom and the right to do what I wish that harms no other people. It means being part of something bigger. It means forgotten 'pioneer spirit', being innovators and leaders. Most of this has been forgotten today in a rush of PC. Mostly, it means that you have a right to PURSUE happiness, not a guarantee about finding it, and there is NOT a constitutional guarantee that you will NOT be offended.

A lot

To have faith in our government, even if you don't always agree with it. We follow all US laws.

Freedom of speech. Freedom of religion. Freedom to vote for candidates that come closest to your own beliefs. In a nut shell FREEDOM

Freedom in totality: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Freedom on all fronts and the idea of making money.

Freedom to be what I want to be, 'speak my piece' without fear of reprisals (though that freedom appears to be going away, rapidly), practice my religion and live my life in relative peace with ALL my neighbors.

It means you are fortunate to be a citizen of a very prosperous nation and have opportunities not available to many others in the world and that you need to appreciate your good fortune and be generous in sharing it with others.

America should be about fairness

The right to be proud of being an American. The humility to admit our country's mistakes. Freedom from infiltration or attack or rule by the people or governments of other nations. The freedom for me and my family to enjoy the blessings of this great nation, make my own choices for myself and my family, to choose how my children will be educated, freedom of opinion and freedom to express that opinion, freedom to worship and express my faith (not freedom from religion), freedom to own property, freedom from excessive taxes and excessive government, freedom to be part of governing our nation

through our representatives. It also means I am responsible to obey the laws, serve others and help make this country better, support those who defend us from enemies and criminals, participate in the political process by voting for people of character and holding our representatives accountable, and treat those who disagree with me with respect.

To have freedom, to have respect by immigrants.

Being united as one, doing things to help others

To be free to speak my opinion, to be free to worship God as I choose, to be free to own a gun, to be free to have children and raise them, to be free of governmental interference in my life and choices, to have an identity with other Americans and to be able to speak and listen to one another in the English language

Life, liberty and adhere to the Constitution of the United States

To actively participate in my community, hold a job, pay taxes, help others, have freedoms.

It means that we have choices that others don't.

To love and respect the flag of our nation and give our military or full support - even if we do not agree with the reasons for a war. These people are trying to give someone else a better life like we have and give up their lives to protect the USA and others. Freedom!

FREEDOM and any one that wants to live in this country SHOULD SPEAK ENGLISH.AND ALL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SHOULD ONLY BE IN ENGLISH

Freedom of race, rights and religion. That if you're a citizen you have the right to do anything according to the law

Being an American means a lot to me. Aside from the many opportunities and blessings that I have, I also feel that I have obligations to help when & where I can. Since the USA is the only remaining 'super power', we owe it to the rest of the world NOT to be a bully and to defend the weak when we can. I am so ashamed of the way that President G.W. Bush has conducted himself, his administration, and our nation's affairs that I can hardly stand it. I am looking forward to November of 2008. I pray daily that the president's actions will catch up with him. He spends BILLIONS on HIS war, cuts taxes for HIS friends, and cares not an eyelash for the Americans who are old, disabled, uninsured or under-insured. I love my country, but fear my government. In spite of G.W. Bush, his family, and his actions, I'm proud of my country. Thank you for the opportunity to express this.

Ideally, it means to be fair and honest with the world and the people around you, and that your opportunities are limited only by your drive and imagination.

Believe in the Constitution

Freedom

Freedom

Freedom to be myself, not ruled by the government

It means to come from the earth. To start with nothing but seed and dirt. Then to nurture it with blood, sweat and an ocean of tears. An American is proud, consistent and a lover of his country. A true American 'will' lay his life down for his country.

Being an American citizen means enjoying the basic freedoms granted us by the US Constitution and bill of rights. It really means life, liberty, the pursuit of your own personal happiness, within reason. It means I do not have to live in day to day fear, it means I have a say in the way our political machine grinds. It means I can sleep comfortably and not be too afraid to live.

I have the freedom to criticize my government and state my issues without fear of retribution.

It means to be free to go about your business and to live in a relative safe life, to have our government represent the people and work with other nations to keep a peaceful world.

Freedom

The freedom to be yourself and able to guide your future. Having the freedom to move about to improve yourself. I have lived in a lot of foreign countries and they have some advantages but not what we have with our Constitution.

To defend the United States

To live in a country such as our democracy and our constitution that gives us the backbone of our country

To support the government and its leaders, because of the freedoms and benefits one receives. This does not mean there cannot be disagreement, but ultimately if one is to receive benefits from a country they should embrace the ideals of said country.

Freedom for all

Freedom

To uphold its laws, speak the language, pay taxes

That I am lucky to live where there is freedom and no discrimination about views and ideas. I also like that I can vote.

A citizen of the strongest country in the world.

To be able to live in a free country.

Pride

I was born in America

Freedom

Free to do whatever I wish as long as I only harm myself!

Being American means supporting this country and its ideals. If you think that something is wrong with this country, you have it changed by appropriate democratic and political means. You should learn its history and aide America's future. You should not be afraid to proclaim that all who want to be Americans have to embrace the American language and culture. You should be proud to be an American and of its heritage.

Being an American is about having the civil, religious, and personal freedoms that our country's founders sought when they established the United States of America.

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To be an American is what it always has been. Just and civil with the power of the people represented by strong states with a subservient, yet powerful, central government.

That you believe in the constitution and the American form of government

We have the greatest freedoms in the world and live in a land of opportunity. It is a privilege to live in the United States.

Freedom to say what I think without fear of reprisal. Freedom to read what I want, listen to what I want, and do what I want so long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. Freedom to own a firearm and protect myself and my family if needed. Freedom of my own religious beliefs.

FREEDOM

To be loyal to your country and proud of everything this country has been through in order to be where we are now. But to also help other countries who don't have things as good as we do.

To be free.

We have the freedom to speak our mind, to vote as we choose, to worship as we choose and to pursue our dreams. With that we have the responsibility to get involved by voting, supporting the political party of our choice and serving as we are able.

Freedom

Free to make my own choices. Live happy, work and pay taxes, get social security.

Freedom, responsibility, social equality

To be free to do whatever I please and believe in what I want.

Not sure.

To be able to speak my mind without fear of retaliation. Being able to go where I want.

To be an American is to share in the responsibility of running our country, keeping it safe and voting regularly.

Being ignorant and arrogant.

Freedom to respond to a survey like this without fear of reprisal.

A true American is willing to do all in his/her power for others and for the United States. Unfortunately, there aren't many true Americans still living in the country.

It means to be proud of what you are and where you come from, to be proud that we have the rights that we are entitled to. It means supporting your country and yes even those who run it, even if you disagree with their ideas.

To be free and allowed to do whatever you want to and wear whatever you want to and go wherever you want to

Freedom

Freedom to: work where I chose, opportunity for prosperity, voting rights, the constitutional right to express my opinion and dissent, Christian values with tolerance for other religions, a court system for due process. Opportunity for those that wish to work. This Country offers much to immigrants but they should not, and cannot force their culture or beliefs onto mainstream America.

To be an American means that I have freedom, rights, and opportunities. It means that I deserve to live however I choose, within bounds, and not be criticized or forced to accept someone else's standards through laws and policies.

To live in a country that respects and promotes individual freedom in a democratic society.

Freedom to worship as you wish, go places without being bothered, and speak when you feel something is wrong.

To live without persecution, to be able to participate in the government and issues that face our nation. To be responsible for our freedom by staying abreast of the issues, voting, and participating in government from the local to the national levels. To embrace the founding fathers' belief that government should be bottom-up and not top-down. Freedom!

Freedom

To stand up and fight for what this country stands for.

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I have rights that were paid for by citizens of this country, some of them with their lives. These rights are mine & all citizens thanks to sacrifices made by all.

An individual that has freedoms to choose what is right and wrong and to accept the consequences for those decisions. To support their local community and state to better themselves and others around them. To support the troops in times of WAR.

Free.

Everything

I used to be very proud to be an American until George Bush became president. He has destroyed the reputation of our country and if left to him the country would become as bad as our reputation!

I live in the only nation that has a clown as president!

I feel very privileged to be an American and very proud of my country. Our biggest 'fault' is our generosity. We are always the first to give aid whenever and wherever needed. This has given many the idea we are 'soft'. Perhaps it is time to help ourselves FIRST. But that seems to be the last thing we will ever do.

Having the freedom to do what you want and being able to express your opinions.

It means to be loyal and remain true to your country which offers you so many freedoms in return. We should be proud of our country and support our troops in the pursuit of preserving our freedoms.

To be free and to obey the laws.

To be a free citizen in a civilized democratic society

As a citizen, I can actively participate in elections. I am able to send my grandchildren, great grandchildren to good public schools. I am protected by the laws of the United States and my State.

Everything that could ever be important to any one... It is great to be an American.

Stand by the constitution and what it means even if you must die for it

To have liberty and freedoms

The freedom to worship as I choose and to express my views regarding the government of the country and the opportunity to serve others through community service.

to be part of a united nation, to have loyalty to the country of the united states

I was born in and am a legal citizen of the United States.

You live in the US and have many opportunities. You should embrace them.

In order - faith in God, love of family, love of country

one country, one language, live by our rules

Great

To love my country and all the people who died in the fight to keep us free to do, say and believe in whatever we choose. And for anyone foreign or American-born to stand in the way of those freedoms in my opinion are NOT Americans.

Freedom. That's why everybody wants to come here so they should become citizens and speak English.

To be an example to the rest of the world to lead them (as a nation) on the right path. And to kill them if they don't agree.

To have the freedom to do as I please. Also, to have the responsibility to uphold this freedom should it ever come under attack.

We have our faults however I have been to 20 other countries and this is the best I have seen. I strive to keep it free.

Freedom

To believe in the goodness of others, though they may be different.

First off I want to say that I am very proud of the people who fought for America. To keep this country safe and free. Being an American is many things for me. It means that I am free. I am free to worship my God without being afraid that someone might shoot me for it. It means that the color of my skin or my race won't stop me from fulfill my dreams and much more. I am proud and grateful to be an American

Speak English, know the culture and win all wars, crush anyone we come up against

Freedom to come and go as I please. Freedom to speak my mind. As an American I embrace the values of the need to care for my neighbor and work toward the common good.

To live and work in the best country in the world. To live in freedom to speak and live as I wish

Freedom, first last and always. Unfortunately much of our freedoms are being lost to the dictates of the self-designated elite, who think they can run our lives better than we can, and to the fiction of 'political correctness.'

Free to say what you think , right to protest peacefully, women have equal rights. I couldn't think of living somewhere else.

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It means that I am an American and resent other people who come to US to make it a part of their country. There should be a quota of immigrants entering the USA

It's the place of my birth I know of no other home land

Freedom

Be proud of our country, fight for our freedom, take care of each other, have faith in God, and appreciate what we have

To be proud to be American. To love and respect the country and the flag. To be grateful for the opportunities we have. To always stand up, face the flag, and be silent when the national anthem is playing. To love America above all other places on Earth.

1776

I never really thought about it. I vote in the state, local, and federal elections. I support candidates, and have worked on political campaigns.

That I am free. That I can believe what I want and do mostly what I want. It allows me to participate in the government and to elect the members of the government. It is a great place to live.

It means having American pride and standing for what we believe in.

We're a debt-laden nation of religious hypocrites. All we do well is shop and drive gas-guzzling SUVs. To me, being an American entitles me to the middle-class mediocrity that surrounds us all.

I live in a country with all its imperfections, is a better place to live than any other place in the world. I am an American!

To be an English speaking, living human being who legally resides in one of the 50 United States. To be fairly knowledgeable about American politics and eager to participate in our democratic system, one who doesn't complain about stuff they haven't tried to change.

Being free to worship, and speak and write my views about world politics.

It means freedom, to voice your opinions.

I am free to feel, think and do (within reason) what I want without governmental interference

Freedom and responsibility! Freedom to choose my course in life, practice my religion as I see fit, raise my family my way, etc. Responsibility goes along with freedom. If a person is irresponsible they may lose some freedoms.

We're able to enjoy freedoms that other countries don't have. Also the US tries to protect their citizens when they are traveling abroad, or get into trouble in other areas in the world. I feel that the US takes a personal interest in their citizens, and the government has a responsibility towards its citizens (privacy and so forth) and the citizens have one towards their government. Should have everyone (perhaps when they are 18 or finish high school) have to do some service for the community or country.

To believe in the constitution, and follow the principles stated therein.

To stand behind the government and abide by all rules. To faithfully defend her. To serve the fighting forces and defend and protect the U.S. constitution.

Being free to chose your own destiny

Freedom of speech

For me It means freedom, to be proud

To have the freedom to speak my opinion without fear, to follow the religion of my choosing without fear, to have the opportunity to succeed and live my life.

I am free to do as I want compared to other countries

It means to be able to express my opinions, to have an impact on laws through access to my congressman and other law givers. These and more actions are necessary to create a country of which I am proud. My family has been here since 1630 and we have grown with and supported it all those years. I can disagree and not get shot, and that is freedom that I wish everyone had.

To be a citizen to the United States is all it means to be an 'American.' That should entail accepting the principals of citizenship embodied in the US Constitution.

To have the rights and freedom to live peaceably without fear of oppression. The right to elect people to govern, the right to have freedom of speech, and the other amendments to the constitution. They have the right to assemble in groups peacefully and to practice & believe the religion of your choice. The government was founded based on 'one nation under God'. To be an American is to believe in my country and my God. It's kind of hard to put into words everything it means to be an American.

If you are in this country you should live as we have for 100's of years speaking English. We as Americans are becoming the minority we have to worry of offending the people that have moved to America. I don't believe that anyone should be turned away from living in America but then they should live the way we do, now all of a sudden we have to change so we don't offend the ones that are moving here if they don't like the ways we live move back to where they came from.

To have the freedom to express myself, whether individually or as part of a group, in speech or in writing; to have a say in the government, from local to national. To be unbounded by my sex, gender, height, weight, religion (or lack thereof), ancestry, etc.

Freedom. Choice. The ability to do and become anything you want. I absolutely love this country and although I would love to visit all the others I would never leave here.

Free

For those who have fought for it, freedom has a taste that those who never have shall never know.

That I love my country and am proud to be an American

We live in one of the best countries with a very good form of government and should do our best to keep it so. I am proud to be an American. We should know our history so we can better understand America.

It means that I am free to be who I am; free to fail or succeed on my merit; free to worship God in the way I choose; free to state my views without free of retaliation; free to vote for politicians who represent my way of thought. It is my duty as a citizen to defend the country in time of need or crisis.

Obey the laws and uphold the Constitution of the United States. Vote on issues.

To be proud of this country, and to uphold all the things that people of the past have fought for to make it America. Rights, Freedoms, etc.

A sense of pride in my country

Freedom

This is a hard ambiguous question that sounds like it should be on the SAT or some other college entrance exam. Being an American means living in America and adhering to the rules and laws of the country. I won't give any more details than that.

Freedom

Being American means freedom. Having the choice to follow whichever if any religion I choose. Being an American also means always having the opportunity to improve one's lifestyle with hard work and good morals

Having respect but understanding this is a country full of the worst kind of idiot. The kind with an opinion.

It means to fight for what you believe in and giving others the freedom to choose their beliefs.

Freedom

Free to speak American, worship when and where I want. This one's hard to explain

Be proud of my country, obey the laws and vote

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Our Constitution is what unifies us as Americans. Faith in the democratic system of law is more important than blind patriotism.

Ability to believe that I have freedoms as outlined in the constitution

Freedom

I don't know

Having the freedoms that we have now.

Freedom to be a responsible citizen, to be able to speak out on what's right, and not simply what's allowed. To not be harassed by government officials. Much more, can't think now.

The right to choose what i want to be and do and have the ability to do that

My family came here from Russia and China. They were so proud to become citizens! They all learned to speak and write fluently in English. They worked hard to earn a living and though they loved their mother-land, America became their home. They instilled in me how important our freedoms are. Being an American is all about appreciating what you have and working to preserve it.

Being a legal citizen for more than 1 year.

That you believe in the constitution of the United States, was born in the territories, and States of the Republic or naturalized.

Freedom

Being able to speak my mind about anything, including this unconscionable administration that staged a bloodless coup d'état.

Frankly, as the only way I identify as American is when I am in line at the international airport, it means my passport is blue instead of burgundy. Suck it.

A citizen of America participating in government and supporting our laws

Really nothing. It is just where I live. I would love to live in England/Wales/Scotland instead.

As a country our history is comparatively short but is founded on rights for the individual person, I am proud to be an American.

It is an accident of birth being an 'American.' Is someone from Brazil an 'American' because they are from South American?

The identification as American is one which entails a citizenship of the United States of America. It isn't a way of life, it's simply an identity. This does not make one above or below any other person in the world.

To love your country, to give as much as your country gives. That is the problem then isn't it, our country or perhaps better yet our government is no longer of the people. It is the people I love, and the people and the government must again become the same.

being free

To stand up for the laws and ideals of our country. To be proud of who and what we are as a nation. To do nothing that would be injurious to our country or her people.

pride

Thankful for all of the freedoms and opportunities

It means that I support the existence of this country and its efforts to improve the living conditions of its citizens and other people throughout the world.

To be proud of the land you live on and be proud of how it was received.

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The Freedom and Liberty to worship or not worship as I see fit, the right to keep and bear arms, the right of free speech without this political correctness that is becoming the norm.

Very lucky

To live free, and have the chance for advancement

Freedom

Considerate of other's religions and ethnicity, but to speak English!

To be free to do as we please within reason, not be afraid of speaking our minds and the ability to become whatever we want to become by our own actions.

Proud

Free to do as I wish. Proud!

An American is a person from America. It used to mean more, but complacency on the part of the American public has helped demean and diminish the ideas behind the word 'American.'

Being able to pursue whatever opportunities I want to and have a good chance of being successful

A lot

To have the freedom to pursue my life the way I choose, including choices in religion, medicine and schooling for myself and my children.

Born in America

To be a law abiding member of society, to appreciate and live by the tenets of the Constitution.

Freedom

Freedom

Free to live my life.

To be lucky enough to live in the greatest country in the world

Freedom, although our freedoms are being slowly but surely eroded by the current political powers-that-be.

I'm very proud, but also worried that we have lost our focus.

To have freedoms that are not available to most citizens of other countries. The most important of those freedoms is our freedom of religion.

To be free to live my life to the best of my ability, to worship in the way that makes me a better person, and to live a life style of my choosing as long as I do no harm to any other citizen.

FREEDOM, SACRIFICE, UNION, HOPE FOR ALL, ABILITY TO LIVE FREELY,

The freedom to succeed or fail on your own merits. Being able to express an opinion and listen to the opinions of others without interference. Having a government that (theoretically) obeys the opinions and subscribes to the morality of the governed.

As an American I have basic freedoms available to me as outlined in our Constitution including the ability to vote in free elections. The opportunity to succeed in a society that will judge me on my ability and talents and abilities.

That I have freedom of speech. Currently I'm unhappy with what George Bush has done to the economy and the Iraq situation.

to be free

Freedom with limits.

To be an American is to be responsible for the choices I make and to do my best through actions and words to revere the millions who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

To live in a country where you have the right to Freedom and Speech. Knowing that you military will protect you country from terrorist. Being able to wake up in the morning and not hearing gun shots, or seeing the military patrolling your street.

Freedom

Freedom to express yourself and believe what you like without persecution. The right to be all you can and walk any path you wish to regardless of your sex, religion, race or background.

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I feel that I (and my family) are the luckiest in the world. I have traveled into Europe, Asia and Mexico. I love being there and experiencing that culture; but I can't wait to get back. Being in a foreign country, I sometimes feel 'scared' that I might do the wrong thing, here in the USA I know what to do and feel very comfortable. Some of your prior questions; if a person comes from another country and doesn't believe in the USA as I do; they need to stay home and stay out of here.

Freedom of expression and religion

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To live in a land that is free and respects all people's beliefs but believes in the constitution and what our forefathers fought for.

n/a

That I still have the freedom to live where I want to, go to my church of choice, work where I want to, and vote for our politicians

There is no real definition of what an American, except to be a native of this country, which only Indians are.

To be free & proud.

Freedom

I guess the same as it means to be from any country. pride

No matter how bad things are under the present ruler, his days are numbered by Constitutional Law; democracy will prevail, and we'll elect new representatives and leaders to voice OUR will rather than their own. Americans strive toward the ideals of democracy, equality, justice and fair play in brotherhood. Capitalism is just a crude tool to help most of us reach that goal, but a dangerous weapon in the hands of ambitious, unscrupulous characters.

I feel privileged and feel obligated by that fact to do my small part toward trying to keep our country the same law abiding, God fearing nation it was originally intended to be by our forefathers. I am very proud to say that I am the first born of the fourth generation who immigrated to the United States from Germany. I am told my great-great Grandfather said the proudest day of his life was when he legally became a United States citizen. This should be the attitude of the incoming legal population!! This is OUR country - THEY should adapt!!

IT IS THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD

Freedom. Responsibility must be applied individually, not by the government, to the freedoms we are guaranteed under the Constitution.

To be proud and honor this land that people fought so hard to protect. Freedom.

Live free

Freedom in all aspects of my life

Proud to be one. Loyal

To be an American is to support the Constitution and to protect and uphold its beliefs and values.

Freedom to choose, worship, vote and speak. But our government is taking these freedoms away

Freedom

It means everything! America has given me the hope and desire to succeed in entertainment. It has given me all the freedom and knowledge of song, theater, and movies. I love show business and nowhere in the world have I been able to express my thoughts and feelings as in America. America's constitution is the greatest document in the free world and the greatest document written since the magna carta. We have problems and not everything is great. You cannot have good without bad. America has made mistakes. As an American who came here at the age of 6 from the Dominican Republic. I cherish the fact that I grew up in America. I love her. Remember, we must have affordable health care for all Americans if we are going to survive. This is the most important issue at hand. Afghanistan is becoming very dangerous for us. Iraq was a mistake! I do not blame the president for this. Only his bad advisers, including Darth Vader. We must protect America from these Islamic nuts, who are trying to kill us. I am very proud to be an American. Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, are my favorites, including Franklin, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and the man who I currently admire; William Jefferson Clinton! god save the U.S.

freedom

Born, raised, and devoted to the ideal of America.

Having the freedom to succeed comes with the freedom to fail

To live in a country where you can proudly worship & speak as you please, a country where you feel safe & confident in most of our leaders because they are working for the betterment of the country and the people.

Everything, it's a part of who I am

That cannot be answered in a short sentence.

Living in a country where I'm free to believe what I want

Everything that the Constitution says is guaranteed to those who are born and are citizens of the U.S., freedom of speech and pursuit of happiness. No other country has it. I was born here and that is what I am most proud of this country. Born free to pursue my happiness.

To be free. To live by the American Constitution. To have the right to bear arms. To have the right to vote. Freedom of speech. If someone wants to live here they should want to live by our constitution and believe in it. They should also have to learn our language.

The most important thing is freedom.

To have freedom without worry.

Free, but with some limitations

It means to freedom to speak out against or for the government, live and work where you like. And you support and defend this country.

It means freedom. Freedom means responsibility. Responsibility means I have to work for what I have and not expect to get anything for nothing. It means PAY MY OWN WAY. It means take care of myself. It means be thankful for what I have. It means not to have the government take care of me.

I was born here.

Everything

It means freedom for myself and my family to come and go as we please. Freedom to worship at whatever church we choose.

Freedom to be anyone I want to be

To have lived in the United States for one's whole life or be an immigrant living here for the majority of one's life

It means to have and defend the freedoms our forefathers fought for us to have.

Having the freedom and rights granted to me in the US constitution and promoting freedom, human rights and justice for others.

An American is a person residing in the western hemisphere, considering South Americans are American also.

Someone who has the freedom to say their opinions

Heritage, the foundation of how this country was formed. What has happened to our own culture? Our own heritage from the pilgrims is being subdued including God. I am proud to be an American and dislike it being down-graded for those that choose to immigrate here.

I think we have many more opportunities for growth as well the ability to enjoy certain things other countries will not be able to experience for lifetimes.

To have the freedom to live as we choose, within reason, freedom of religion, speech, etc. However, I disagree about the right to bear arms

Freedom of expression, and ability to live peacefully with my family.

Freedom to wear and say what I want to when I want to. Freedom to bear arms

Being an American means living in a free society and abiding by the ideals laid down by the Constitution. It means believing in democracy and freedom.

freedom

Free and at work.

To be an active participant in the growing ways of America.

the right of individual choice and opinion.

This is an incredibly complex question!!! On the one hand, I feel blessed to have been born in a country where I have many choices and many opportunities. Sometimes I am embarrassed and ashamed of the current leadership and their actions as well as how we have treated others in the past. I believe because I live in a democracy I have a responsibility to be informed on issues and to be involved in the democratic process. Generally, I feel privileged to have been born here - but I am also aware that there are other countries - such as the Netherlands, etc. which also provide the opportunity for a wonderful quality of life. I travel a great deal - and know there are other countries which are hell-holes. So, in summary, I guess I would say to be an American is a blessing AND a responsibility - to be informed and to take part in the democratic process.

Freedom to believe what I want but to be punished when I am in the minority.

To live freely with our ability to do and say as we will within reason.

To be proud of this country and all that the flag stands for

I'm very proud of my American citizenship. I served in the US Navy, during the Vietnam era and I enlisted! I wouldn't have it any other way! God Bless The United States of America...ps, I'm also a Native American Metis.

Being an American to me, means that you are proud to wake up every day and live in the greatest nation in the world. It also means that you are willing to fight to protect your country.

To respect and defend the constitution of the United States. To disagree with respect. To work to change those areas that need changing in a non-violent manner. To learn the language of the country and be involved locally and national but not in such a way that use lose your unique culture.

It was supposed to be the ideals that came out of the age of enlightenment, but these days those concepts are rather hollow and deceptive and instead it seems like it's nothing more than a game of making citizens into cogs of a great machine, forcing values on others and keeping watch and control over everyone.

To enjoy the right to be able to do those things that I want within the law.

It means to be proud of the way my descendents formed this country and how long it took them to make it what it was and is.

Being an American is having the freedom to express myself and say what I want without restriction on my opinion.

Following American laws & speaking English

Being free to live and work to keep most of my pay check (taxes) believing in the Flag.

Having the abundance of my God-given freedoms granted by the United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights, which were written by our God-fearing, Christian founding fathers and are VOLUNTARILY DEFENDED AND FOUGHT DILLIGENTLY FOR BY OUR OUTSTANDING ARMED FORCES, thus giving us the ability to enjoy those Rights and Freedoms even though many of our current and past politicians have and would like to take many of them away from us in their own shady little way!

FREEDOM and the right to choose

God, country, family

n/a

To be free to make my own choices, whether that to be speak whatever language I so choose, or to fully embrace the American 'Melting Pot' and the traditions here, but regardless: to accept the mixed and diverse culture of our country. We were shaped by immigrants who came here long ago and still today, and need to acknowledge our roots.

Not having to say you are sorry for who you are or where you came from.

Being a citizen of the U.S.A. I am a fan of the country, not necessarily the current government.

Living in a Democratic society according to the Constitution of the United States of America

It means I have the choice to pray to God without repercussions, the choice to speak out, the choice to vote, the choice to be active in politics, the choice to defend our country.

To be able to practice any religion, to live where you want, to work for any dream you wish to work for without interference.

I have freedom gained from the men and women who fought for it. No one can take that away. We owe a lot to the soldiers fighting far from their homes so that we may speak our minds, worship who we want, and sleep in peace every night.

Being free to express your own opinions.

something I've always been

To be free. Make my own choices. So as I damn well please, with no interference from knuckle headed politicians.

I am very proud to be an American. The United States is a wonderful country with many privileges and freedoms.

To live and be an American all the way

Freedom!

It means to live as one nation under God. Everybody is trying to take God out of everything and I think that is why we are having the problems we are. Being American is having the right to our own opinion and a right to free speech. When I was little my Daddy would watch the news all the time and I would see things going on in other places and I was so scared I was going to get drafted or that what I saw on TV was going to happen here. It scared me to death! I won't watch the news to this day. I also think this war is a bunch of BS!

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It means that I am free to think and do what I want, along with the responsibilities for our society.

Very proud

Freedom to travel, to move, to change jobs to criticize government. To live in country with diverse ideas and cultures.

Loyalty to this country and it's laws

To me being an American is to be honest and giving and to protect our fellow man.

Freedom.

The freedom to vote, to speak, to believe in a religion of my choice, these are just a few of the things that being an American you can do and not be punished for doing. Nowhere else can you do this!

To live in America, to be looked at by other countries as a rich white person. to be blessed with freedom, and have security in authority. To have great opportunity for education. To be able to pursue whatever I want. To be in the top 20% of the people in the world when it comes to having money. To not be afraid.

Making the most of opportunities afforded to me by right of living in this country

Greatest country of all time. Hope that what happened to the Roman Empire doesn't happen here.

To live in America and be loyal to the country.

Honor, life, freedom, and a need to get rid of the nutty politicians that only believe in taxes and giving help to those that do not deserve help!

Free, honest and upstanding

To hold an individual opinion of the country and one's self; to be free.

It means to defend and uphold country and constitution.

be either born here, or immigrate here legally, and live the American culture, instead of trying to make it like where you came from, speak English, uphold the laws, and serve in military, civic organizations, understand the issues and know about the candidates and vote!!!

I believe in and actively support the political system. I trust that elected officials attempt to represent my

best interests in establishing policy. My vote at election time makes me a conscientious American.

Freedom and liberty

fj;glakgfn

To be grateful of where you live. Respect it with all your heart. Obey laws so everything stays in order and progression is always forward.

To be born free. To live where I want. Work and worship how I want. To live within the laws that govern this nation. To speak my mind in a lawful way and to vote for the person of my choice.

Freedom from suppression of religions we're all created equal to make the best of it for you and your family and keep what you earn, to be taxed with representation

Being able to enjoy those rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Freedom. Not being persecuted for our religion, culture, sex.

English spoken as the main language, The Ten Commandments, God, Prayer and upholding the Constitution.

Belief in the system

Believing and living under the statements of the Constitution.

I don't think about it much

At the moment it means being angry at and embarrassed by my government much of the time.

As an American, it means that I have the freedom to worship my God, the Lord Jesus Christ, without the fear of harm. As an American, it means that I speak English and call myself an AMERICAN--regardless of my heritage! As an American, it means that I live in a country where I can do whatsoever I choose to do as long as I keep the law while doing it. As an American, it means that someone, somewhere gave his life, her life so I could have freedom--true freedom. AND I am very thankful for all those in the many years of America's existence for all those who died for the love of America and the freedom we have here. Freedom should never be taken lightly. So, sadly, freedom does come with a cost.

To be tolerant of people who are different than you and to exercise the rights given in the Constitution.

Freedom

to be free to speak any language I like

US citizen

To live relatively free of fear.

To have freedom

To help your fellow Americans...not that this happens often. Seems in today's America it is every person for themselves, greed and consumption run rampant. Sad, but a reality for many.

Freedom of speech and religion. The ability to make a living. We used to be able to live in peace, but now we have too many aliens here that makes it unsafe.

Freedom to do and think as I want

I don't know. Question is too vague

To be a citizen of the United States of America and to be one of the luckiest people on this earth to be allowed to live in freedom

Proud of our country, and proud to be an American. We should do our utmost to set the right standards for the world.

Being loyal to this nation

Freedom of choice, democracy, better way of life.

Freedom

To be free

It's a heritage of freedom, liberty & self-discipline. Rights are not cumulative in nature. A group has no more rights than an individual has. The only rights a group has are derived from the individual rights of the members of the group.

Being American means that I have the freedom of choice. This choice includes my being able to voice my opinion in political and social matters. It also means that every other American has the same choice, whether this is in the language they speak or the religion that they practice. This is what makes America.

That with the rights associated with being an American I am also given responsibility to reach out to my community and help make democracy work on the local, state and federal level. You have to be involved

Love of God and country

To be free to make my own choices, whether it be politics or personal choices

It means many things to be an American....a survey like this is not designed as an essay question, which I would need to answer that question. My feelings about America and being an American are very strong and deeply ingrained, not something that is so simple to answer. I am a retired disabled Navy veteran.

Lucky to be born, educated and reside here.

Regarding the English language, one cannot truly assimilate into our society without learning it. As to allegiance, it comes naturally to people who make the US their home. Why would people not believing in our constitution wish to live here?

Abide by principles delineated by the country's founding documents. Participate in the advancement of the country and its' citizens.

Believing in the ideals of our nation and practicing it everyday

Reside on American soil, and live under the laws provided by our government. It means fulfilling your duties, such as paying taxes and serving your country. If you want to have a say in American government, then as an American, you should vote.

Its so much I can't explain it in simple words.

What a ridiculous question.

To love respect and fight for what is right

It is important that my voice be heard, and not silenced in any way, even if that disagrees with the thoughts of our elected leaders.

It means FREEDOM. We have laws that, for the most part, are fair and reasonable although they should be enforced more in some cases. It means we have a say in a lot of what happens here although I think much more should be on election ballots if it affects all Americans and we should choose more of those things ourselves. It means we can protest what we do or don't believe in as long as we do not interfere with someone else's rights. It means that people are defended against equality if

they bring it to light. It is the only country I have lived in so it is difficult compare although we have heard many things about other countries but there is NOWHERE on EARTH I would live but here with our democracy even though it does have some flaws.

To have freedom and pride in my country

The freedom I have and the right to vote or not for a person going for public office.

Free to do as I think

It means that I am an active member of society obeying the law and supporting the country. That I remain vigilant and exercise my freedoms and help protect the rights that God has given us.

An American means different things to different people. I was raised to think the US should be the most understanding of individual rights and freedoms, that the phrase 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' did not pertain only to Americans but to all people.

Freedom to do what I want

That I have the freedom to think, believe, and say whatever I want. That I have an obligation to exercise that freedom with intelligence, in order to not prevent others from exercising their freedoms.

Freedom, happiness, proud of American roots

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, and HUMANITY for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

The freedom to agree or disagree.

Choice, opportunity, responsibility

To me, it means that I have had the chance to live in a free country my whole life, not having to be under non liberal laws, to come and go as I please to anywhere in the US, to speak my opinion when ever and where ever, to know that my children and grandchildren can live free in this country as I have

Freedom to speak, religion, live as I do.

To love one's country, and in this case, to love the culture and values of the U.S.

I am very happy that I am an American. Being American gives me certain freedoms and rights about my life and my way of life. I have always been an American citizen and have always lived in America it is important that others have the same opportunities. I believe the American way of is a blessing.

To uphold the US Constitution and Bill of Rights

The land of the free

???

It's better than the other.

To believe in the shared vision of a country based on democratic principles where everyone has the opportunity to succeed in whatever legal endeavors they choose, and who supports our Constitution.

To defend the freedom of all citizens by being involved in the government process by understanding the issues and taking a stand.

Freedom

As Americans, we should accept everyone's religion and cultures, even if they are different than ours!
To me it's accepting everyone and helping everyone.

We have immense freedom to pursue dreams and we should be responsible for our actions

The line for the Declaration of Independence that 'we are all endowed by our creator, with Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness' says most of it, and also the freedoms set for in the Bill of Rights

Freedom. But it seems like people from other countries are taking over and are making the US. citizens speak their language and take on their ways. If you want to come to America. Then you take our ways on

Speak the language, defend the country

To be proud of your country and to contribute to making this country better and stronger! Speak ENGLISH! Read ENGLISH!

Blessed, free, proud of USA

Freedom, abide by the constitution, a melting pot where all may come but must embrace our constitution.

Too live the way I want to and have the freedom that people long ago fought for

Freedom

To be free and defend that freedom. To be proud of our country and defend her at all costs.

To be a free person who has the right to assembly and free speech to tell of what they dislike according to the laws of the nation. To hold and protect the Constitution of the US.

To be an active participant in our country by serving others in your community. To follow the laws of the land and to respect what it means to be an American. To be accepting and open to all individuals and situations, as long as they are legal

The ability to choose for myself the things I wish to believe in. The ability to speak my mind without suffering any consequences. Mostly the freedom to choose for myself how to live my life. There is no one telling me what religion to have, how to dress, or giving me any other restrictions on how I want to live my life.

The freedom of free speech, freedom to live life, to defend your, country you live in. Be free in your rights.

We are free to do almost anything, as long as it doesn't hurt someone else

To be an American is to stand by what you have been taught and to obey the rules.

Freedom

A citizen because I was born here, not as important as being a world citizen

Freedom as a human being

That I am a citizen of the United States of America.

To live free and freedom rights, which we are rapidly losing. Dedication to fellow citizens and concerns. Having free speech and living up to our Constitution.

To be an American, One should understand we as American citizens have rights and freedoms, with these freedoms, are responsibilities, to ourselves (family), our country and our God. Our forefathers made this clear in their writings. At one time America led the world in most every way. Now, we pander to small special interests. This is wrong. The squeaky wheel needs to stop getting greased. Its time our

three branches of government read or re-read our constitution. Understand we, as a sovereign nation, can work out business with our neighboring countries, but never allow porous borders. We need to get back to God before God allows us to demolish ourselves for the sake of ourselves.

Freedom

Being American to me means having the freedom of views, religion, being able to vote for whom I think would make the best president, and being able to express my views without being afraid of punishment. I only wish the healthcare system was better.

To be free but still restricted. As a black person, I have many liberties but I am still held back by the past and present.

We in America are given choices. What we do with those choices is up to us. But what I like is that we have the freedom to do what we want with the choices we make. So being an American to me is, having choices, doing the right thing and having a Government there that still allows me to make my own choice. Not many other countries can say that.

Freedom, which is not allowed in many, if not most other countries.

freedom

Freedom

Home of the free, land of the brave. I believe we can make this country whatever we want. And another thing, I think it is bull that people are taking prayer and creation out of schools. Did or did not our forefathers come here for religious freedom? Isn't that what this country is about?

Respect for your country and your flag. Understand that the flag represents your country and not the current political administration. Understand that this is a Christian English speaking country. We should respect other beliefs, but should not be expected to change what we are. Many millions have come to this country seeking freedom and found it. Do not come to our country and expect to change into what you have fled. Our customs and history are USA American. Our coins say 'In God we trust.' We can and should criticize our politicians in office--never, never the flag or our country. It is uniquely American, as allowed in our Constitution, to keep and bear arms. These and many things more are what it means to be an American. Proud, no matter what your heritage.

To serve your country to participate in political elections and engage in freedom

ability to be free and vote to change things if it not to the peoples liking

freedom

Technical – logistics, philosophically - living in a free society Emotionally - living in a country with opportunity, freedom of expression and religion, part of a strong and powerful nation.

To be a citizen of the United States.

The freedom to be responsible for my actions

I am free and enjoy the benefits of living in the United States and have a better standard of living than all other countries

You are free because you live in America, a freedom 'governed' by the best constitution in the world. The country was founded on judeo-Christian principles and we should continue to remember our roots.

It means having the freedom to more or less do what I want.

Freedom, pride, responsibility and loyalty

Primarily, an American is one who lives in America, but also has the cultural history and traditions of other cultures.

We have so many freedoms that others do not have and we should respect these freedoms.

Nothing stronger in the world. Islamic religion states that all Christians should be killed. Obama (running for president). Used the Koran to swear into Congress. Scares the HELL Out of me!!!!!!

The freedom to speak my piece, and do as I wish

Loyalty to the flag, uphold the constitution, follow the laws, vote in elections, practice whichever religion you believe in. condemn no-one for their beliefs, treat everyone as equals.

Fair, responsible, and lucky.

A person who treats all others with dignity and only wants peace for all

To be free...to be able to say and believe in what you wish. But I do feel that all Americans should understand constitution and obey its laws.

To be free from a religious government. Separating church and state is the best law in the constitution.

Everything

One Nation Under God

I have the right to speak as I please, and live as a free citizen. I can vote, and worship as I please.

To have many freedoms and rights

To be part of a blessed country ,

To believe enough in one's country to uphold its values, laws and culture.

To be free and live in a free country with the right to speak my mind and feelings without someone telling me otherwise. To raise my children as I see fit without someone telling me that I cannot do what I want. To be able to send my children to school every day so that they can learn and grow up becoming very distinct individuals.

It means have freedom to do as I want and to marry who I want or even speak

To be free to feel and say anything. To have opportunities to become whatever you want. To feel proud of our military.

Freedom, opportunity, religious freedom, freedom to bear arms, better standard of living

Not much anymore. This country is being taken over by immigrants and we are now the minority. We get treated like crap while all the 'non' Americans get all kinds of help, benefits, breaks. They get everything.

In the word American is the words 'I can' that means we have to do the best we can and proud and given equal chance. The government should not come in and tell I can't pray, work or teach my children about God and country. It is freedom that blood bought by strong men and women.

Freedom to pursue fulfillment

I am guaranteed certain rights by the constitution that no one can take away. I feel safe and secure in this country. I have great pride in what our ancestors did to make this such a great country and I have pride in our service people past and present that keep our country safe. I love my country and would not want to live anywhere else.

I am able to make choices concerning my life

Proud and strong

To be able to enjoy the freedoms of the country. To be tolerable of things different than your beliefs and still be able to practice your beliefs.

To believe in our political system and to support the laws of this country.

Proud but ashamed of our current administration

That I'm free to do almost anything I want and to believe in anything that I want without being discriminated against.

Being free in ways others are not being able to participate in politics and influencing the government

There is no place like this in the world. We take in all people and have made the world what it is today.

It means being born in America. It means being from a country that is losing face with the rest of the world because of the actions of the government. Being an American is no more or less important than being an Australian or a German. Though some of us may act as if we run the world, we do not. Being an American means seeing when things are wrong and working to fix them because we care about what happens in our own country.

The freedom to fill out this type of survey without any fear of reprisals

Freedom, hope, pride

Freedom and culture that many have died to preserve. A nation under God. A nation that helps others. A nation established under God.

Freedom

I used to be proud of being an American and I assumed responsibilities such as educating myself, voting, being active in civic affairs. Now I feel betrayed - elections stolen, being lied to to get us into an illegal war and refusing to consider peace as an option. I think we are more fascist than democratic now. I have personally seen the police state in action. Both political parties are ruled by the very things that President Truman warned us of. I spend a lot of my time in Panama because I can't stand being in a country the world hates for good reason.

Have the love and loyalty for God and my country

I would defend my country against all foes. I believe in the constitution of the United States of America and I believe in freedom of religion. I believe our constitution is based on the bible and should remain so!

I am free to do, think, practice my faith as long as I allow others to do the same.

To embrace the freedoms of the constitution. To help our neighbors in times of need and support those less fortunate than ourselves.

Stand by my country

It is the home of the free; freedom of expression, freedom to worship, and freedom to travel from one state to another without being hindered by the government. A country where I can raise my children to believe they can accomplish anything they aspire to be and not be interfered with by the government. Freedom to get a quality education and decent job. However, none of this is guaranteed unless I work hard and remain a law abiding citizen.

Freedom, choice

Patriotic

To be able to live a free life in all that I believe in

We have freedom, whereas in other countries, there are some laws that will penalize you if you speak

against their beliefs.

It means supporting our government, its laws, and our troops in the job they need to do. We do the best we can to follow the laws and customs of the land and know we have the freedom to question that which we feel is unjust.

Live and work in America. Believe in freedom

That you embrace the ideals of this nation

It is an honor to be an American, to have freedom of speech, freedom of choice and to live in the best country in the world

Freedom, protection of our rights, ability to grow our culture for the betterment of all, welcoming anyone who wants to make life better for all

none

It means we have a responsibility to speak our minds on important issues.

It means being a citizen of the greatest country on Earth.

Being a citizen of a country that my family helped defend. My country has a political system that allows everyone to participate in some form or another; everyone has rights and no single member of the government can take those rights away. Even though people disagree with the way things are, they are still allowed to express their views and opinions without fear of recrimination from the government. If the laws aren't how I want them to be I can be part of the solution and actively work toward getting them changed. Being an American means being part of a country that is by the people, for the people, with all the freedoms and responsibilities it entails.

Lucky to live in a country where we have the freedoms that we do

Freedom

To be free

You follow all US laws and speak English

It means a great deal to be an American. If anyone wants to be American, they should not want to change the American language, religion, or our customs. We should not have to change to fit their needs and wants. If they want their language or religion, they need to stay where they are at. America was found by our forefathers and we haven't changed anything yet, so why should we change just because some one don't believe the way we do?

Freedom

Freedom

Until recently, I took it for granted, yet it is obvious that the values that I grew with are now being compromised as that we were intended to be a land of opportunity, that is true for a very few.

Freedom of speech, liberty, religion and open justice system and the right to exist without oppression!

Have rights and freedom of speech and belief.

Freedom and the right to not be forced into a religious state.

Free to be and do anything

A special place in the world because of a strong belief in freedom and tradition. However, freedom does not include giving away my country, as it is by the liberals. Being free or a libertine is very different. Most aliens are showing no care for our traditions and impose their cultures as a right. Most

continue to be loyal to their former countries with the acquiescence of very ignorant "Americans" in name only.

Obedying our laws and following our constitution, but not denying anyone political asylum.

A lover of our nation

Freedom of speech, the right to vote

Uphold and defend the Constitution. Vote. Be active in letting elected officials know what you and your community want from them.

To be an American is to embrace our Constitution and culture. This nation was FOUNDED on certain principles that should NEVER be compromised. If you want to be an American you MUST be able to read, write and COMMUNICATE in ENGLISH, and to follow the founding fathers' way of life as in not shutting God out of the Nation. 'One Nation Under God' is in the Christian fashion, not Islam, Hindu, Buddhism, etc. If you don't like how things are run, and you are a citizen, strive to change it, as long as it NEVER CHANGES WHY THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED! America was founded because of religious persecution-- which is happening again to Christians. The Founding Fathers WERE Christian!!!! And they all knew how to read, write and COMMUNICATE in English! I'm not against immigration, only against those who want hand-outs and refuse to learn ENGLISH BEFORE coming here! I deal with many customers that can barely speak English, and communication is even worse. I refuse to go to a country (to live) without knowing how to communicate with the citizens. I REFUSE to learn any other language to communicate with immigrants because they don't want to learn MY language in MY country!!!!!!

To be loyal and love our country for its people, its history, its culture, and its ideals and to continue to support those who make it possible

We have the freedom to speak out, to strike, to rally and march to protest. We have a good standard of living and more food on the grocery shelves than we will ever eat.

To be free to express one's opinion and to believe in the democratic system of government and the constitution.

Freedom of choice, of life, of living...although this is being compromised most by those elected

To live free and believe in the Constitution.

It means having the freedoms that were enabled to us by our founding fathers. If we can uphold those freedoms promised in our Constitution, then we are better than the other countries for keeping our ideals. If you don't like what the Constitution says, get all the legislatures and Congress to pass your amendment, or accept it, or get out.

No answer

Freedom

The lines are being blurred at this time in our history. We have definitely lost our position of superiority during this administration. Other countries no longer respect us. I think today, at least in the eyes of other countries being American means arrogance.

Possess freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, protected by our responsible actions and commitment.

Free of interference security and NOT having government or others looking over my shoulder

Being free to express the way that I want to live and not get thrown to the wolves

Well in the past I would have said freedom of speech and to live your life but now there is no freedom of speech anymore and our lives are not free anymore so I am having a hard time to really know what it

really means anymore. Other than we live in the United States land of the fighting people, homeless and overworked.

American culture is something I have fought for and believe it should be honored or get out. Learn it or leave and that includes the language.

To me being an American, is believing that we live in a free country, one to practice one's own religion, free to pursue one's career. One should stand behind our principals and believe that we shall be a the best country we can be, and care for one another allowing them to have their freedoms also.

Proud, freedom of speech, freedom to find kind of work we prefer, freedom of religion. I wouldn't want to be anything else and I STRONGLY believe English ONLY should be spoken, written or relayed. If foreigners want to speak Latin or whatever, they should go back to their country, not try to change ours.

no opinion

To have personal freedoms

Speak English, work, join the military, and don't live off the rest of us and don't come here and expect us to change our country to your liking. If you don't like our rules, laws and customs, STAY THE HELL OUT!!!!

To be someone who believes in what America stands for.

It means that as a nation we should come together to be as one in times of crisis. It means that I am part of a decision to help make this country a better place to live and raise my children and to help others from foreign countries that also want the same thing.

It makes me feel proud and I wouldn't want to be anything else.

If they do not agree with our values then the only two reasons to come to the US would be for money or destruction of our values

To be free to express one's opinion and to live your life as one sees fit.

To be free and respect the USA

An ACTIVE partner in this Democratic Republic.

To be free

That I am a citizen of the United States and as such should serve and defend my country to the best of my abilities and to not speak out against my country and to expect those who live here permanently to speak English and to also serve this country.

A belief that everyone is created equal and shouldn't infringe upon the rights of others

It means to be proud of my country, the history of my country. It means I speak English and enjoy the rights and privileges granted to American citizens.

Live free, express opinions, strive for success, and believe in the American way of life.

To be free to raise a family without threat of violence. To be able to earn a living to support yourself and family. To enjoy freedom and feel safe.

Freedom from other countries

To live safe and free.

God, duty, honor, country.

Loving our freedoms in our country, protecting our country and being thankful for what we have

Freedom

To enjoy the liberties of citizenship along with th responsibilities.

It means the right to have the freedom to be able to believe what i wish to believe, say what I want to say, and do what I want to do. I believe it is a privilege to be an American. I believe the government has some issues that are severe though, like education and health care ideas.

I would like to think of it as The Land f the Free and the Home of the Brave, but with our current president and the way we vote now days I am not sure. I feel that we are thought of as being freer than other countries, and we are for the most part. As Americans always have they helped foreign countries and people who need assistance and who want to come here to live. But if America is not careful and sticks to our policies one day all of the people we have let come here and live will someday take over and it won't be America. GOD Bless America. Learn the language! Keep God in the language.

Well, my dad fought in WWII, Korea war, 3 tours of Nam, Panama conflict, served 30 1/2 years in US Army, worked 22 years civil service, died on Memorial Day of Agent Orange cancer ... I believe I am truly an America supporter; yet we need to take care of our own; my mother cannot see military doctors anymore, her benefits are almost all cut out now. That's not the agreement when Dad signed up.

Fortunate

Be loyal and devoted to the American cause.

Choice to do/say/become anything.

As an American I enjoy many freedoms, and I believe anyone who wants to become an American citizen should be able to read and speak English.

To have freedom of speech, religion, able to elect officials.

During this current administration I'm not sure what it means to be an American? This administration is ruling this country by fear and intimidation! At one time being an American was our passport to the world, we where loved and respected! Now we are hated and the butt of jokes!

A system of laws, individual rights and freedoms under those laws, A democracy that generally works, free elections, and a strong economic system.

a lot

I love my country with all its warts and defects. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

I'm free from having to answer to anyone. Can live, learn, work. enjoy life

Born and raised here. Free to believe what I want and be who I want. FREEDOM

To be FREE!!!

To be free to speak and live the way you want.

It means freedom of choice, within the laws. It everything I know. It is pride in my country and upbringing. It is sometimes shameful as well, i.e. Katrina handling and foreign policy is sometimes shameful, but all in all I'm proud to be an American and I think if you are wanting to come to this country for whatever purpose, if you have decided that this is 'where it's at' then you need to adapt to our ways and language and not forget who you are and where you come from, but you must want to fully be an American.

Eat meat

I feel I am a citizen of the greatest nation man has ever put together, and I want that to continue for the generations to come. Therefore we all need to defend our border, language and culture. From our

founding fathers until the WWII generation that was the case, but now we are under attack by liberal leaning leaders and organizations, and the silent majority must take a stand.

Allegiance to the laws of this country yet the freedom to choose my way of life, religion, where to live, how to live, and how to raise my family.

Having the freedom to do, say and believe what you want. As long as it doesn't endanger the lives of others.

Being an American means living in a country where men and women have, or should have, equal rights. Everyone is entitled to a free education and children can choose what they want to be in life, teacher, doctor, etc.

Being an American means being willing to defend the country when right and denounce it when wrong.

Freedom

Freedoms & rights not necessarily allowed in other countries

Being born here, speaking English ,showing respect for our flag.

It means freedom as ensured by the Bill of Rights

Scout oath, pursuit of happiness, protection of liberties commonwealth, family and friends; understanding of enemies' ideologies and common ground

Freedom to express my ideas without worry

Box doesn't fit it all

Freedom and pride in my country

Freedom and the ability to vote for the leader of the country

To live the American dream.

To have freedom to make choices. To worship God according to the dictates of my conscious. Not one specific person is in control of what we can say and do.

Always supporting the U.S. through everything.

Freedom of religion, pursuit of happiness, to have a job, to have a home of my own, everything that freedom entails

Freedom of speech and to do what you want within the law

Pride

Support and defend the ideals installed in us by our forefathers, including getting back to when we were a Godly country.

To live in a free country, and be able to express my views without being afraid of retaliation.

Freedom, individuality & happiness.

To be a part of a vast mix of all races, religions, and peoples that are one

Uphold and abide by the laws and take part in keeping up to date with the affairs of the country which affect the public/citizens.

To live in the US and to be patriotic. To serve your country by voting in elections and doing what a person should do.

To have freedoms that you may not have in other countries.

To me it is freedom; It is your right as native born to respect the laws that keep us free. To migrate here is a privilege not a right. Americans have the right to live in their country in peace without immigrants telling them to get out of the way.

To value the freedom and individual liberty of humanity above all else. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!! To feel united in variety.

Have the freedom of living a much better life with friends and family PLUS the USA has the best Presidents and Gov

It means to support my country and its military. To believe in how our country was established and defend it to the death.

It means that we should be loyal to and support the government. We have opportunities in this country that people in other countries don't have.

Loyalty to the laws and constitution in which the country was founded.

no response

To be born here. Also, to speak the language, Salute one flag giving up allegiance to any other and be willing to accept our laws of whatever form. To be willing to fight for the rights that citizenship confers.

Freedom!

To be Free

I have the opportunity to be anything that I want. I can become rich or famous if I chose to make the effort. I have the ability to disagree with the government without fear of reprisal. I have the freedom to worship any god of that I want.

It makes me proud.

Having pride and loyalty in the country. Caring about what happens here or what we do outside of our land, counting our blessings of freedom and the right to defend what we believe in as a nation.

I am a Christian and America was founded on Christian beliefs. Being an American is being free to choose what I believe and to live by those beliefs. I believe that Christianity is the only true religion and that people have the right to choose to believe in it or not to believe in it. They do not have the right to say I cannot practice my religion in public or private and I do not have the right to say they cannot practice theirs. And while I believe most problems can be solved without resorting to violence I believe sometimes we must defend our freedoms with violence. Those who wish to take away those freedoms should not be allowed into our country.

In light of the recent political climate, i really do not know what it means anymore.

freedom

Free to adhere within the 1st 14th 5th etc constitutional amendments and the constitution of the US

Sophisticated re. personal liberties; concerned for all legal citizens; championing education at all levels

The right to speak my mind, but still uphold the constitution. I don't think GROUPS should be banned if they don't, but certainly individuals. I think it would be better for our children if we took a second language, such as Spanish, since we have such a large population of Spanish speaking citizens, and teach it in schools from Kindergarten. That would be good for the children's education, and it would also give us a pool of people ABLE to learn additional languages more readily. That pool would put us at a greater advantage in intelligence operations and in diplomatic and business relations.

I am born and raised here in the US and I feel that the duties of all Americans are to uphold and defend the Constitution, become a productive part of society, and encourage all to put the Constitution's law above all others. I believe in free speech and my right to use it without fear of offending someone else, but that common sense should govern my actions, as should my belief in God. I will raise my children with these same beliefs and morals, and hopefully they will do the same for their children. I feel that this is a country of opportunity, but that others wanting to come here from other places want to change our laws and not abide by the ones already in place here that are tried and true. So maybe we need to preserve our country by only letting in those who truly want to become American citizens and follow the laws of OUR land.

Freedom to do what I need to do to be a good citizen

To live in a democracy such as we have

That you follow our government and our laws. That you have freedoms that other countries do not. You can express your opinion, but still live by the Constitution of the United States. You are English speaking. You take pride in being an American by loving our country. Being an American is the best you can be, so if you hate America, get out of here and stay out.

Freedom

CVZXCV

I am able to speak freely without fear of persecution about any subject matter including opposition of government decisions and freedom of (or from) religious beliefs.

Pride, freedom, right to practice your religion, compassion and the right to pursue your happiness and dreams.

It is a privilege to be American, but it also comes with great responsibility. Our country has seemed to forget that lately. We need to work together to build up our great nation. Politicians need to be held accountable for their actions as well as everyday citizens. We need to get away from the notion that we all must be 'politically correct' so that we don't offend anyone and get back to our roots...our ideals and our way of life, back to when the U.S. was really a great nation

To follow its laws, rules and regulations

I have a Free Will.

FREEDOM, pride, love of country. I wouldn't want to be anything else. I appreciate all those who fought and died for our freedom to do and be what we want.

honor our laws and flag. help and respect our soldiers and help them .

I am proud to be an American.

I live in the greatest country as a free citizen. I have many advantages and opportunities that others don't have.

freedom

Willing to abide by American laws, accept American rules, and be loyal to America

When I hear the song Proud to be an American... this sums it up!

To be an American to me is to be in a Country where I can Live and support my family. Where they can work to better themselves by going to College or working at a job of their choice.

Living in the best country there is.

Freedom, pride, strength

Varied meanings in terms of the legal definition: Born in US. Born to US citizen parents. Chose to be an American citizen for any of a variety of reasons.

I believe that to be an American is to have freedoms that other countries don't have, to be able to worship according to my beliefs, to be able to speak my mind without fear of retribution. Many people have laid their lives on the line so that I can enjoy these freedoms.

To be free.

It is not something I have given much thought to. Maybe that is what the answer is. It is perhaps just the fact of being what I (we) are. There are freedoms, rights and obligations that make me (us) what we are.

x

It means to believe in this country

To enjoy a system of government that is regulated by secular laws. To be able to travel where I want, when I want. To make my own choices concerning my future.

It means that I enjoy certain freedoms others do not have. It means that we as a country come together during hardships as one united front. It means that I can be a Christian and hold my head high knowing that I can worship as I choose and not be persecuted for my beliefs

I am very proud to be an American. It is a great country and we should respect it completely. We should also continue to protect it and stand up for our rights!!

We live by laws that allow individuals freedom to pursue their own goals, jobs interests etc without interference or fear. We are free to express opinions about government religion without reprisal

America is a country of freedom and rights. As an American you have the opportunity to achieve your dreams.

Trying our best to live up to the ideal of freedom and equality.

I am 67 years old and while not a 'flaming patriot' I do believe that our freedoms and our national security are worth fighting for. I do not believe that the war in Iraq was necessary and I believe that every soldier should be back home to the US before the end of 2008.

Freedom to worship, speak, live and survive without restraint or fear.

Freedom

To support the ideals in which this country was founded.

Freedom to choose.

Land of the free ,Home of the brave, over taxed, and would not want to live anywhere else in the world
proud of the the country, supportive of the laws, belief in the system

FREE ENTERPRISE, FREEDOM OF WORSHIP, RIGHT TO HAVE GUNS, RIGHT TO VOTE (EVEN THOUGH ELECTORIAL VOTES ARE THE ONE THAT COUNT), RIGHT TO HAVE CHILDREN, RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY (taxes are high) USA WAS FOUNDED ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND LESS TAXES, AND NOW A FEW WANT TO CHARGE HIGH TAXES, AND TAKE AWAY OUR RIGHT TO EXPRESS OUR BELIEFS.

I think you can only answer this question if you've been a resident of another country to differentiate being American from being another nationality. At its heart being American means I can make that statement and not fear for my own or my family's personal safety and well-being.

That I'm free and live in the best country in the world. I have certain rights that cannot be taken away

and am very proud to be an American!

America to me is a land of opportunity and is open to all other races and types of people. Being an American should mean that everyone has equal rights and opportunities to achieve the same things.

It means being free to live how I choose and respecting the memory of those who fought for this freedom while also being allowed to respect my heritage.

To honor the Constitution and its Amendments, to value freedom, fairness, and differences of opinion.

Being American means I am free to express my opinions without fear of the law and I am free to disagree with someone else's opinion. It also means I can eat a Bacon Ultimate cheeseburger whenever I feel like at any time during the day. I can have breakfast for dinner or dinner for breakfast. I can fart, curse, fuck, watch tv, vote for whoever I want, write-in whomever I please, call politicians 'crooked' to their faces, practice my religion, own guns, have kids, be married, be unmarried, or be able to choose 1-ply or two-ply toilet paper. Being American means you can be an individual and people judge you because of it, that's American too.

It means everything to me-to be able to have as many freedoms as I do, I consider myself extremely lucky!

Pride

I covet my freedom and opportunity provided by our constitution. This makes me very proud. I am prepared to do whatever it takes to protect our constitution and to object to anyone who tries to change it. As an American, I am willing to oppose any and all who might try to destroy our way of life, either from within or afar. That is what it means to me to be an American.

FREEDOM

freedom

Embracing the fact that we are made up of many different cultures, and that living with other cultures has been our way and should be our way.

THE ABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MY OWN OPINION AND VOICE IT WITHOUT FEAR OF PHYSICAL HARM. KNOWING THAT EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO AN OPINION WHETHER OR NOT IT IS INCORRECT. TO HAVE A VOICE.

Learn the language and defend this country with your life.

America is the place where we have freedom of speech, religion, the right to vote, etc. I thank God everyday that I was born here. I love the fact that America is so diverse!

I have had limited travel experience but still I learned that the world goes right on without even thinking of the U.S. for days at a time. We need stronger people for president, not idealists. This is the greatest country in the world and we must keep it that way by requiring that everyone read and speak English because that is the best way to get things done when we understand what others are saying.

The last best hope for mankind.

To be FREE and have my FREEDOM.

To believe in the constitution and laws of America.

Freedom

Freedom to choose my future.

We live in a country where we are free to bear arms to protect the country and family, and where we are free to choose where our lives are going, and what religious group to be members of, and a Constitution that guarantees our freedoms above all else.

To be the best.

FREEDOM!!

I am a naturalized citizen and to be an American, means the ability to choose how you think of the world and world views. The controls are still present, however no other country has produced as many 'Horatio Alger' stories, in my opinion, than America. Having the ability to take many life-survival necessities for granted. It's kind of like the 'Internet' multiple opinions, views, biases, all present for people to identify themselves with in their life journey.

A member of a society that has a voice in how the society is shaped.

To have the freedom to be myself

To be free!

We have a better way of life to some point

Have pride.

Life, Liberty, Freedom, and the pursuit of happiness.

The opportunity to live in a country where, if you are willing to work, you can have a comfortable enjoyable life. In America, you have the freedom to live and believe and worship as you like.

freedom to live where I want to live so long as I can afford it, the freedom to practice my religion, the freedom to voice my opinion regarding the government and freedom to earn a living. As a democracy, we Americans were once the bar by which other democracies measured their value. Sadly, that bar has been lowered. As an American, I believe we can regain the respect of the rest of the free world and again set the standard of values. To me, Being an American, means standing tall and proud. We will overcome this administration just as we overcame corrupt administrations in the past.

To have freedom of education and opinion. To become educated in our laws, and follow them. The freedom to pursue happiness, allowing the job we want and to earn the money we need.

To be allowed certain freedoms under the constitution

That as a citizen of the USA I am lucky to be a participant in this country's rights and privileges. These rights and privileges have been bought by the blood and sweat of the American fighting man (and women) who served before me.

Someone that is willing to abide by all American laws and to learn to speak English!!

To be able to support my church and family

A legal resident of the United States.

Freedom

We have rights afforded to all Americans offered nowhere else, free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of press, etc. among just a few...

Not to worry a lot.

Proud and free foremost, I cannot describe what emotions I feel when the national anthem is sung and to say the pledge of allegiance

Freedom to be the best you can be. It also means being a citizen of the best country on earth...with a Constitution that provides a system of government second to none. And the envy of all other countries...even our enemies.

HONOR COUNTRY

na

I am very proud to be an American citizen and I feel lucky that I was born an American. The privileges of being an American are of the utmost importance to me. Freedom and a government/nation that continues to fight for that freedom.

Open society, freedom of religion, free speech, high taxes, government ignores the masses

Freedom of all aspects

not sure

It means I have freedoms that many other persons in other countries do not enjoy. It means that anyone can with the proper motivation and a little luck, succeed

Freedom! Free to think, free to vote, free to expect a democracy, freedom to disagree, protection of rights.

na

To be able to express my thoughts and keep the beliefs and principles that I feel are in accordance with the US Constitution.

I have a well vested interest in my country that I will not have ruined and I am a very patriotic citizen

SPEAK ENGLISH, VOTE, SERVE THIS COUNTRY

freedom to disagree, love but fear for the future of my country

Freedom

To be a citizen of the best country in the world

No answer

I have many freedoms but I am ashamed of my leaders who keep us in this stupid war

to think and freely

That I have the rights of the declaration of independance and I should be able to live by it with no hassles

Proud and loyal

Simply put, in most cases, the right to live my live as I see fit within the boundaries of the law

proud

Freedom. Patriotic. We should be going back to the founding fathers ideas looking in to what they were talking and writing about in their time 1776.

An American is someone who respects and lives by the guidelines set forth by this country. They are proud in who they are and what their country stands for. An American treats others with respect and tries their best to see others at their equals. An American will respect others with different ethnicities or backgrounds as long as they make an effort to respect America's values and fit into society.

freedom

free

freedom

I am just trying to legally make ends meet for my family. It is difficult and frustrating when others get

free handouts and a free pass. I am the one who pays taxes and needs a break. I am the one that obeys the laws. I am the one who suffers

By supporting the political process, ensuring that the tenets of the Constitution are upheld by all facets of American society.

I am proud of our country, and believe it to be a great country. Although I believe we have made some mistakes lately in our policies overseas, I think we still offer more freedom and opportunities than any other nation.

Freedom. The problem is that the leaders of this Country sometimes sell themselves for self gain instead of what is right for the United States.

To have the freedom to live my life as I choose fit

Not sure